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© Kent Preistley

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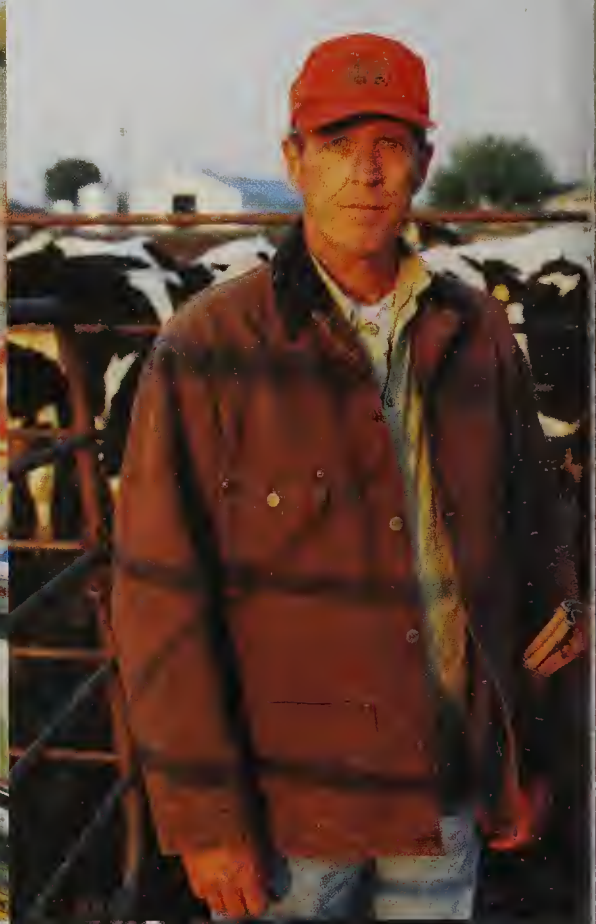
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Girl Scouts at summer camp in the 1920s on the Merritt family farm, Surry County. (From the Lee Merritt Photo Collection, N.C. Museum of History)



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Co-ops were cool even before air conditioning

By Michael E.C. Gery, editor



If you remember life in rural North Carolina in 1963, you remember how hard it was trying to get to sleep on a hot, still August night. You welcomed any breath of breeze that might float through the opened, screened window. You may have thanked your lucky stars that night for your turn at using the electric fan. You may have thanked your electric cooperative for delivering the electricity to run that fan in the first place.

Forty years ago, residential air conditioning was still a wish and a prayer removed from most people in rural North Carolina. By 1965, window air conditioners began appearing in local appliance stores, and later, whole-house systems came on the market, though they were not affordable to many rural households. [See pages 12-13.]

In those days, electric cooperatives employed staff advisers who made house calls to help members determine the appropriate size and use of such appliances as electric refrigerators, freezers, space heaters, wiring, water heaters, lighting, dishwashers, laundry equipment, milk coolers, barn ventilators, and eventually, air conditioning. Cooperatives naturally had an interest in ensuring that their members had the opportunity and the understanding to choose such appliances and to use them safely and efficiently. It's an example of how cooperatives have always kept close to their membership, knowing that informed members can keep a cooperative not only helpful, but also healthy. Cooperatives still carry on that tradition in a variety of ways – with staff energy advisers, member services reps, safety demonstrations, load management help, economic development specialists, and assistance for commercial enterprises.

Another heated activity was under way in 1963 that many of you may not remember as well as you recall those hot August days. In 1963, electric cooperatives in North Carolina were struggling for their existence.

When the North Carolina General Assembly opened its January 1963 session, one of the first orders of business was to consider the report of the General Statutes Commission. A major portion of that report focused on restructuring the state's electric utilities. The state's electric cooperatives called the recommendations, "A Blueprint for Destruction."

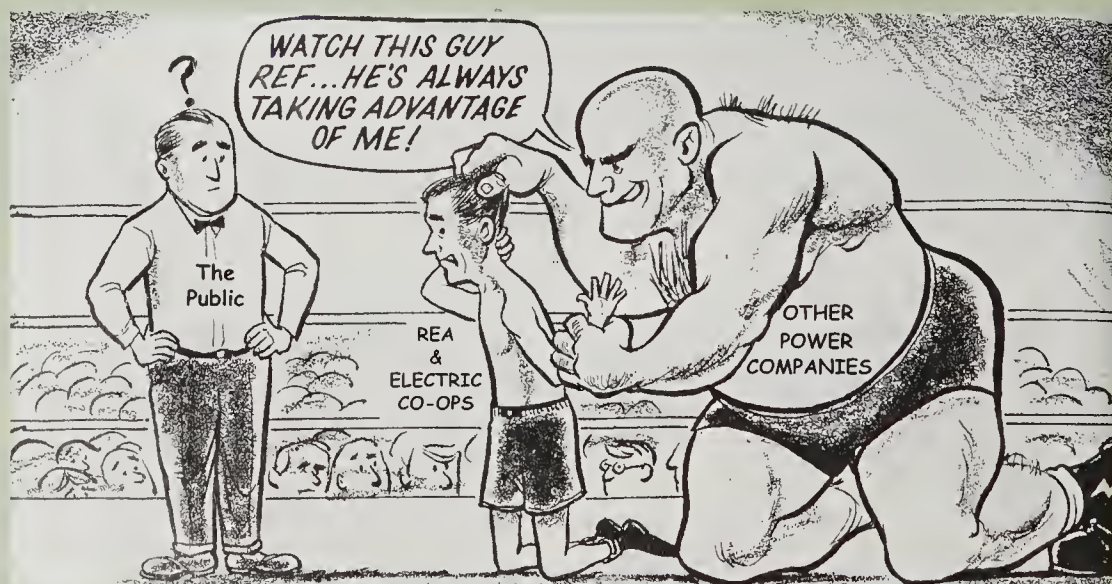
J.C. Brown, the executive manager of the statewide organization, said in the co-ops' January 1963 magazine (then called *The Carolina Farmer*), "It is an understatement to say that the Commission report fails to suggest a

reasonable degree of protection for the consumer against the well-documented excesses of monopoly utility operations . . . These proposals seem calculated to make it impossible, if not illegal, for rural people to own their own electric system."

Cooperatives in the early 1960s were under attack nationally as well. As rural areas began seeing their populations swell, other electric utilities sensed a good business opportunity. Legislation in North Carolina and elsewhere proposed to restrict the geographical territory where cooperatives could operate either to their existing membership or simply to "farms." One provision would have permitted the state to condemn co-op property so that other utilities could buy co-ops outright, whether the membership agreed or not. Another sought to prevent cooperatives from generating their own electrical power. Political allies of other utilities asserted that cooperatives had outlived their usefulness and described the cooperative way of business — where consumers owned the business — as "creeping socialism." The rhetoric in *The Carolina Farmer* and co-op newsletters grew testier month by month. The battle raged for two more years.

As we know, cooler heads prevailed, as though the very presence of air conditioning statewide tempered the debate.

Now that the idea of restructuring electric utility regulation has resurfaced, cooperatives still stand for the same principles that we championed successfully 40 years ago: any changes should benefit all consumers, and that consumers themselves have a right to own and manage their own business. Because cooperatives essentially have no other interest than to deliver equitable, reasonably-priced service to members, it's only natural that we work to protect the interest of consumers in general, and that cool-headed, common wisdom eventually will agree.



A 1964 cartoon in *The Carolina Farmer* illustrated the tussle among utilities at the time.

The car that was swept away

By James Taylor

Highway 121 north of Farmville rivals some of the interstates today, but in the summer of 1960, there was very little traffic on it. In fact, there was so little traffic, when a car did come down the road, what few people who lived on Hwy. 121 would come out to see who it was.

About one mile north of Joyner's crossroads is a canal that runs under the road. This canal is only about 5 feet wide and about 5 or 6 feet deep and has a tendency to overflow its banks in wet weather. In the summer of 1960, we had a week of heavy rain, and the canal, to no one's surprise, overflowed and ran across the highway.

We lived about a quarter of a mile north of the canal, and my uncle and aunt lived about a tenth of a mile south of the canal. My older sister, younger brother and I decided we wanted to go look at the flooded canal, so we walked down there. We found my cousins Mary Sue, Patsy and Nancy playing in the water, so we joined in. We ran back and forth, sloshing the water all over us. Bacteria and germs had not been invented at this time, so we had no fear, and the water was only 6 or 7 inches deep anyway.

Along about 11 a.m., we saw a car approaching from the direction of Farmville. The driver got to the overflowed canal and stopped. He asked us if we thought it was safe to drive through the water. Before I could say a word, my cousin Mary Sue chimed out, "Oh no, not at all! Just a while ago a car tried it, and it was swept away!"

Patsy caught on quick and said, "Yes, it was just carried off by the water!"

Patsy's twin, Nancy, got hers in, too. She said so convincingly, "I'll never forget those poor children crying for help."

By now, the driver of the car was upset, to say the least. He said, "I'll try it later when the water goes down," and he turned around in the road and headed back to Farmville.

We continued to play in the water, and around noon time, my Aunt Rosalind came out and asked if we were hungry. She had prepared some peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for us, so we dried off as best we could and went in. We had not been inside too very long when we heard another vehicle approaching. We all went to the front porch and saw a pickup truck pull over to the side of the road towing a small motorboat. I became very excited. I had read of boats that had motors, so I knew they existed. Lo and behold, I now could brag, I had actually seen one with my very eyes! Here I was only 13 years old and had seen a miracle of mechanics, a real boat motor.

Just about this time, we saw several more cars arrive. They pulled over to the side and stopped. The people got out. The men, looking very somber, came up to the man who had the boat, and the ladies gathered in little groups and began to talk in whispers. I thought I saw some of them crying. It was then I heard a siren, then saw the county sheriff arrive. This had to be the biggest day of my life. First a real boat motor, now the county sheriff — not a deputy mind you, but the real man himself.

The sheriff got out and walked over to the group of men standing beside the boat. They started to offload the boat, but then realized the water was not deep enough to support it. The sheriff and some of the men waded into the water and looked long and hard down the canal. They shook their heads and walked back. The sheriff looked around and saw us standing on the porch and came over. He asked us if we knew anything at all about the car that was swept away. What kind was it? What color? How many people were in it?

My Uncle Russell and Aunt Rosalind said they didn't know anything about any car being carried away. Then Uncle Russell, a very stern man, looked at us and said, "Do you know anything about this?"

I was shaking in my bare feet, I was so scared.

Mary Sue finally said, "I don't know. I thought I saw something floating down the canal."

Patsy and Nancy sort of said together, "We could be mistaken, we aren't sure either."

It was then I saw a gleam in Uncle Russell's eye as he caught on. He turned and stated to the sheriff, "I'm not really sure, but I don't think you are going to find any car in the canal today. You may want to come back later when the water goes down and look then."

The sheriff became somewhat red-faced and muttered something about a lot of trouble a bunch of young'uns had caused and went back to the man with the boat and helped him load it back on the trailer. As word spread, some of the ladies that I thought I had earlier seen crying began to laugh. They all got in their cars and trucks and went back toward Farmville.

Uncle Russell got us all together, and I knew we were in deep trouble. But all he did was laugh so hard we forgot our own fear. I found out then that my stern Uncle Russell had a great sense of humor.

I am sorry to report, the car was never found, the poor hapless family never identified. However, when my cousins and I get together, without fail, we always hold a moment of silence for the car that was swept away in the great canal flood of 1960.



James and Sue Taylor live in Farmville and are longtime members of Pitt & Greene EMC, a Touchstone Energy cooperative.

Touchstone Energy puts Carteret-Craven Electric in national spotlight

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, based in Morehead City, was selected as the national "Touchstone Energy Cooperative of the Week" for the last week in June.

There are more than 600 cooperatives in 44 states nationwide that have embraced the Touchstone Energy brand and its guiding principles of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.

Carteret-Craven has incorporated the Touchstone Energy identity in a wide variety of activities. The co-op also emphasizes collaborating with other North Carolina cooperatives in branding efforts, including partnering with eastern North Carolina area electric cooperatives and its statewide association—North Carolina EMC—for special projects, advertising and community sponsorships. Examples of these Touchstone Energy sponsorships include the MCAS Cherry Point Air Show, a three-day event that pays tribute to U.S. armed forces and in 2003 celebrated 100 years of flight with approximately 175,000 attendees. Touchstone Energy sponsored the Blessing of the Fleet at the North Carolina Seafood Festival, a three-day celebration designed to educate the public about North Carolina's rich seafood resources and industry. The festival hosts approximately 125,000 guests per year. Sponsorships on a smaller scale include: Children's Miracle Network Telethon, Relay for Life, March of Dimes, boosters and band clubs at local schools, and a local electrical vehicle program. Touchstone Energy banners and /or a cold air balloon are on display at these events.

To learn more about Carteret-Craven EC, visit www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.



Photo by Bill Ward

Carteret-Craven employees Pat Corbett (left in red) and Lynn Dickson (right in red) walk during the Carteret County American Cancer Society Relay For Life. The local cooperative team placed first for the second year in a row, raising over \$13,000 for this year's event.

Rural electric leader dies in Virginia



Rob Partridge receives the President's Award from former NRECA President Fred Lackey at 2002 summer board meeting.

Robert Darwin Partridge, retired executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and a retired major general in the Civil Affairs Branch of the U.S. Army Reserves, died June 23 in Alexandria, Va., where he lived. He was 86.

As head of NRECA, the trade-service organization of 1,000 electric cooperatives in 47 states, Partridge was recognized as a dedicated advocate for consumers, and he played a leading role in the founding of the Consumer Federation of America in 1969.

A Missouri native, Partridge's career in rural electrification, which spanned four decades, began when he joined the staff of the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA) at the close of World War II. His interest in rural electrification was aroused by memories of life on a farm without power, so he decided to check it out. "I interviewed on Thursday and they wanted me to start on Monday. I told my wife the place was full of visionaries and do-gooders and probably was doomed to failure . . . I had never worked with people who had such a missionary zeal, and it was contagious. Six months later, I, too, was a 'visionary do-gooder'!"

His years as CEO of NRECA were marked by both increased congressional support for rural electrification funding and a pronounced movement from a dependence on low-cost direct government loans toward an increasingly greater amount of private capital.

A new study says electric service industry changes can and should benefit consumers

Consumers and small business can and should benefit from fundamental changes in the electric utility industry, according to a distinguished public interest organization that focuses on energy, telecommunications and other industries that provide essential services to consumers.

After a year-long study, the Consumer Energy Council of America (CECA), concluded that regardless of whether states open their electric service industry to retail competition, "new products and services can, and should, be offered to consumers."

Chaired by a former director of the Smithsonian Museum for Natural History, the study group included executives representing business, government and service organizations.

The CECA report, entitled "Positioning the Consumer for the Future: A Roadmap to an Optimal Electric Power System," recognized that hurdles must be overcome before the nation's electric power system can be modernized to meet the increasing demands of consumers. More information is on the Web site www.cecarnf.org.

Among other CECA conclusions are:

- Residential and small business consumers must be provided electric power service at stable and equitable prices, whether or not the utility industry is opened to competition.
- Residential and small business consumers, especially low-income consumers, must be protected from price spikes in electric power service.

- Standard service should be available to those who do not want to change their provider or those who change their provider and then are either dissatisfied with their choice or their provider leaves the market.

- In states that have opened their markets to competition, the standard service price should be the benchmark against which competitive offers are provided.

- Programs that provide incentives for consumers to alter their energy use can result in increased efficiency, lower costs, and greater system reliability.

- The nation's transmission system is aging and needs to be upgraded through technological enhancements.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) praised the study. "CECA has struck upon the most important tenet of any industry restructuring," said CEO Glenn English. "First do no harm."

The nation's electric cooperatives have long held that any restructuring of the industry must above all directly benefit consumers.

NRECA also praised the report's support for the continued advancement of industry-wide social goals such as universal service and environmental stewardship.

NRECA is the national service organization that represents the nation's 900 plus consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 36 million people in 47 states.

Telecommunication services affect rural youths' outlook

Three out of four young adults say that the availability of advanced telecommunications services would have an influence on where they decide to establish households and build their lives, according to the "2002-2003 Rural Youth Survey" released by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) and the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). The survey contacted 538 rural residents aged 18-20, of whom a 58 percent majority said they hoped to make their homes in rural America after high school or college graduation.

"The youth market has embraced both wireless and phone wire line technologies at rates far ahead of their adult counterparts, making young people the 'early adopters' of the telecom industry," the survey concludes. "When developing new products and marketing campaigns, telecom providers hoping to tap this market need to get into the minds of these forward-thinking telecom consumers and plan based on their buying patterns and usage trends."

The survey's conclusions match the themes from a recent National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) informa-

tional session at InfoComm 2003 in Nashville. A panel of four high school and college-aged students described how wireless phone service has become more important to many of them than wired telephone service, and how the Internet, including broadband access, will be critical to their future home lives and careers.

The survey found that youth nationwide are using mobile phones as their primary form of voice communication rather than wired telephone service, "and rural youth are leading the way with over 80 percent using their phones on a daily basis." About 40 percent of survey respondents said they use their phones for more than 500 minutes a month.

The National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) supports more than 1,000 rural utilities in delivering telecommunications and information technology solutions to their communities. These NRTC members serve more than 20 million customers in areas of the country that have been unserved or underserved by traditional utilities and other businesses. For more information, visit NRTC's Web site at www.nrtc.org.

Jimnies, Sooks and Peelers

Checking crab pots and shedders at a Manns Harbor fish house

Text and photos by Kent Priestley



You can identify a jimmy (male) by the narrow, missile-shaped abdomen.



This crab is shedding its shell.



*Benny's Seafood (from left):
Benny, Ben and Diana.*

A southwest breeze roughens the surface of Croatan Sound, whipping up streaks of foam that point to a gray horizon. It's a queasy afternoon on the open sound, but at Manns Harbor, on the mainland side, the water is slick calm.

Manns Harbor is the traveler's first landfall west of Roanoke Island and the Outer Banks. The mainland community stretches along a thin slice of marsh and sound shoreline, and is backed by miles of federal wildlife refuge. The village has long had ties to the water, and it's easy to see what pays the bills these days. Along the canals, wire crab pots, stacked five or six high, form long rows, each one fitted with a plastic float branded with the owner's name.

At Benny's Seafood, a sagging seafood house set just back from the Manns Harbor sound front, Benny "Rip" Rippons Jr. culls a day's catch of blue crabs, sorting bushel baskets full of the clattering crustaceans by size and plumpness.

Minutes before, Rip was nosing the "Tasha," a workboat named for his sister, to the dock after a day spent pulling his crab pots. Now, he thrusts a gloved hand into a basket, lifting crabs out one by one and examining them for marketability. Small crabs are returned to the water; regulation crabs are sorted according to size.

Most valuable among them are the "peelers," immature crabs poised to loosen their old shells and form new ones. Crabs perform this molting process as many as 25 times before reaching their adult dimensions. Free of their hard domes, crab bodies are limp and exceedingly vulnerable to predators. Which is bad news for crabs, but good news for people. Soft crabs are a seasonal must-have on menus all along the Eastern seaboard. Fried, broiled or sautéed, the tender, delicately flavored crabs can fetch more than \$1 apiece wholesale, and have become a bread-and-butter market item for Outer Banks fishermen coming off the lean winter months.

Blue crabs begin to shed their shells in late April, and the heaviest harvesting comes in May and June. Shedding continues through mid-September, and sometimes goes on longer if the weather stays warm and the crabs don't migrate to deeper water. But on this day, few peeler crabs have made their way into Benny Rippons' pots.

"There ain't many peelers on the bottom," Rip sighs. "This is the worst season I've seen."

Since he last checked them, his 60-odd pots have scared up only a half-bushel worth of peelers. Swings in the harvest come as little surprise to Rip, though. At 33 he's crabbed nearly half his life, but readily concedes that the hunted, not the hunter, holds most of the answers. "Anytime I think I know something, it doesn't work," he says. "I try to do the same thing every year, but it ain't never the same."

Typically, hard crabs are lured to wire pots with a piece of menhaden, an oily fish they find irresistible. Peeler crabs, though, are different. Peelers are coaxed into the traps by love, or something like it. Rip baits each pot with a male crab, called a “jimmy,” before lowering it into the sound. Female crabs, called “sooks,” lie below, waxing amorous, their claws tinged with streaks of lipstick red. Ready to shed one last time before reaching sexual maturity, they scuttle into the peeler pots for safe haven and the promise of a mate.

During mating, called “doubling,” a jimmy crab will cradle a soft female for a love act that can take as long as 12 hours to complete. Fooled into Rip’s pots, though, the poor ladies never reach their man. Instead, they’re caught, brought to shore, and placed in shallow tanks called shedders. Peelers are inspected regularly over a period of days, and ones that have shed are chilled and packed for sale. Tending crabs starts before sunrise, and continues until well after dark.

Rip’s father, Benny Rippons Sr., was born on Hoopers Island, along Maryland’s Eastern Shore. At 56, he has built a life around the bad-tempered shellfish. “I don’t know nothing else but crabbing,” he says. “It’s all I’ve ever done my whole life. My son’s the same way, and my grandson will be the same way.”

Prior to the 1960s, crab shedding was typically done in dockside canals, creeks or other calm waters. Mesh-bottomed trays, tethered to pilings, were filled with rank peelers. Those old-school shedders rose and fell with the tides, keeping crabs cool as they molted. Benny remembers poling a tiny skiff around his grandfather’s floating shedders, helping the old man tend his peelers.

Since then, dock shedders, typically fashioned from wood, plastic, or fiberglass, have replaced floating shedders. Set on stands for ease of access, dock shedders rely on electric pumps to cover the crabs with a constant stream of cool, oxygen-rich water. A new Tideland EMC electrical substation at Manns Harbor, completed in January 2003, ensures that Rippons’ peelers are kept alive by some of the steadiest power around.

The rising demand for soft crabs

Not many local people were shedding crabs when Rippons moved his family to nearby East Lake in 1973. Times have changed, and with them the demand for soft crabs. “It’s a big thing anymore. Used not to be, but it is now,” Rippons says. The family’s docks are crowded with more than 100 shedders, capable of holding up to 50,000 peelers during the peak season. They’ll keep shedding crabs until well into fall (“enough to keep the pumps running,” Benny says), but seldom again see the abundance of the first spring and summer runs.

Most of the catch is shipped north, to buyers in Baltimore and New York City. Sizes range from smaller soft crabs, called “primes,” to “jumbos.” Topping the list are “slabs” or “whales” — big jimmies whose shells measure 6 inches or more across.

There’s opportunity in soft crabs, and it doesn’t take many peelers — three or four to a pot each day — for a crabber to cover costs. More than that is money in the bank. Benny says he draws 40 percent of his annual income from the tender harvest.

Coaxing a living from the water, by nature’s rules, is hardly easy. But crabs keep the Rippons family together, working side-by-side daily at their Manns Harbor enterprise. Benny’s daughter, Lisa, manages the business office and keeps all the commercial accounts straight, and his wife, Diana, is secretary. Grandkids pitch in where needed, along the docks or on the water.

It’s clear what keeps them crabbing. “You’ve got to love it,” Benny says. “Nobody can make it in this racket unless they love it.”

Kent Priestley is a writer who lives in Manteo.

Steady electric power from a new Tideland EMC substation ensures a constant pumping of cool, oxygen-rich water for the shedding tanks.



Lisa tends the shedders



Rip sorts the crabs

When air conditioning came to Carolina country

In 1938, you could get air conditioning in a Packard automobile, but it was another 30 years before it became a household item in rural North Carolina

By Michael E.C. Gery

It's hard to imagine that 40 years ago, next to no one in rural North Carolina had air conditioning at home. In 1963, electric cooperatives and their staff "electrification advisors" were helping members update their indoor wiring and choose electric refrigerators, freezer chests, barn ventilation systems, electric space heating and water heating systems, but air conditioners were still a few years and more than a few dollars removed from North Carolina's rural households.

To cool off in the hot months of the early 1960s, North Carolinians at home and in small businesses within electric cooperative service areas still relied on electric fans or the occasional breeze through an open window. A photo from the time shows a woman working at an office desk while soaking her feet in a pan of ice cubes. Big shade trees surely increased the value would help keep you from feeling woozy on hot days. A plunge into a river's swimming hole or a neighbor's pool were even better.

It's not that the technology didn't exist to cool and dehumidify inside air. It's just that air conditioning would not become affordable in rural North Carolina until the mid-1960s and later. People could certainly take a hot drive to a nearby city and wander around an air-conditioned department store or loaf inside a cooled movie theater for a few hours.



This 1965 industry photo from the June 1965 issue of The Carolina Farmer suggested that air conditioning "makes entertaining on even the hottest days a pleasure for hostess and guests."

In 1902, 20 years after the nation's first electric power plant went online in New York, Willis Carrier, the "father of air conditioning," headed the "experimental engineering" department of the heating equipment engineering firm, Buffalo Forge Co., when he conceived of air conditioning. Carrier said he was standing in a hot Pittsburgh train station when he realized that air could be dried by saturating it with chilled water to induce condensation. That year he designed an air cooling and dehumidifying system for a Brooklyn printer who had complained of an inability to make color reproductions because changes in heat and humidity altered his paper.

The North Carolina textile industry played an early role in the advancement of air conditioning when in 1906 the Carrier Corporation installed its first industrial-strength system at Chronicle Cotton Mills in Gaston County. The project is also considered the point when the term "air conditioning" first entered the language, according to the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute.

Air conditioning came to urban movie theaters in the 1920s, to department stores in the 1930s, to the Packard automobile in 1938 and into affluent urban and suburban American homes after World War II.

Residential air conditioning accompanied the post-war economic boom. But price remained an obstacle in all but the wealthiest neighborhoods. Installing air conditioning in a new house in 1952 added about 8 percent to construction costs.

In her 2002 book, "Cool Comfort," published by the Smithsonian Institution to mark the 100th year of American air conditioning, Marsha E. Ackermann tells how Carrier Corporation in 1953 sponsored a nationwide competition among architects to design a house containing central air conditioning that a middle class family could afford. The winning design – a 1,000-square-foot house with sealed windows – came from two Argentinean architects based in Raleigh. Ackermann recounts how House & Home magazine, published by Time magazine's Henry Luce, produced a 24-page supplement in 1954 praising residential air conditioning and envisioning a new lifestyle among Southerners who may come to prefer to stay indoors in summer. Quoted were obviously affluent residents of suburban Dallas and Houston: "When we have a party now, the men leave their coats on," and "When you advertise for a girl, they ask if you have air conditioning." And a woman was quoted to say, "The movies and the automobile broke up family life, but televi-



Cartoon in Carolina Country, July 1966.

sion and air conditioning are bringing families together again." It wasn't long before air-conditioning equipment whirring outside a house became a status symbol.

The 1960 U.S. Census found 12.4 percent of the nation's houses equipped with central or room air conditioning. The South reported 18 percent overall, but among non-white Southern householders the figure was 3.8 percent.

Ackermann reports that automobile air conditioning developed at a much slower pace than home cooling. In the early 1960s, factory-installed AC added about \$600 and considerable weight to new cars selling for less than \$3,000. Most air-conditioned cars were sold in the South and Southwest at the time. It wasn't until 1969 that half the nation's cars contained air conditioning.

The "hot weather blessing" becomes "another real bargain"

North Carolina's electric cooperatives began promoting air-conditioning systems in 1965. Carolina Country magazine (then called "The Carolina Farmer") in June 1965 carried a special edition of its section "The Carolina Homemaker" devoted to window-mounted air-conditioning units. "Homemaker" editor Jennie Layne began this way: "Will this be your first summer of living with an air conditioner? Congratulations – you've a wonderful summer ahead of you." The piece proceeds to advise people on where, how and when to use the systems, including suggestions along the lines of "Grandma's tricks" such as completing indoor, heat-making activities, such as baking, before the

day reached its peak warm temperature.

Part of the idea was to inform consumer-members that air conditioning was easy to operate and promised both health and social benefits. "Why suffer thru another hot day, or turn and toss on these hot, muggy, sleepless nights?" a co-op advertisement asked. "Air conditioning does more than cool; it also filters the air. This brings welcome relief for those who suffer from hay fever and asthma. And there's less dirt and dust for Mom to clean. Yet the cost is low, only pennies a day thanks to low-cost rural electric power. Another real bargain in better living, the modern, total-electric way."

In 1966, ads appeared for a new window-mounted system, the "U-Mount" by Hotpoint ("first with the features women want most"). The U-Mount was billed as quiet, easy to install and stylish. It had top-mounted controls and came in three sizes: 5,800, 7,800 and 9,000 Btus.

Even in 1967, the cooperatives continued basic instruction and advice about "this hot weather blessing" of air conditioning. "The Carolina Homemaker" in June 1967 issued a question-and-answer feature entitled "Puzzled About Air Conditioning?"

Today, most North Carolina cooperative members — even those in the mountains — consider air conditioning essential. A 2000 survey of North Carolina cooperatives revealed that 90 percent of us have air conditioning at home. But there are still plenty who remember the days and nights before we could simply set a thermostat or turn a dial to keep our rooms or cars cool in summer. And some of us still prefer just to open a window.

How in the Lord's name did we make it through those Sundays in August?

By Perry Comer

During the 1950s and 1960s in the rural South, going to church was a weekly special event for all members of the family. Folks got themselves scrubbed, shaved, shined and scented, then put on their "Sunday clothes." It was important to look your very best, because everybody at church would be looking at you. On Sundays in August, however, once you were in church, sitting on a hard wooden pew with sweat trickling down your underarms and onto your nice clothes, the thing you looked for most was a breeze coming through an open window.

Before you went anywhere, of course, Sundays in August had their chores just like any other day. Unpleasant things such as slopping the hogs, churning butter and emptying "the pot" kept under grandma's bed still had to be taken care of. If the preacher happened to be invited for Sunday dinner (it was dinner and not lunch if you lived anyplace other than Charleston), there would be extra chicken for the frying pan. And, of course, it was somebody's job to catch the chickens, then wring their necks and pluck the feathers.

An August Sunday morning brought its own smells. The scent of starch under a hot iron sent out a freshness you never forget. From the kitchen came the smell of fried chicken as Mama fixed Sunday dinner before getting ready for church. If you were lucky, there would be banana pudding in the oven, and the sweet aroma of its meringue browning would drive you insane. Of lesser importance was the smell of black shoe polish being applied. Ladies doused themselves with the latest Avon, and the men freely splashed Old Spice aftershave. And, yes, the smell of Juicy Fruit gum was on everybody's breath.

Leaving the house in the old Ford or Chevrolet meant first rolling down all the windows. The drive to church may have been long or short but was always certain to be dusty. Many roads were unpaved. Dirt roads or gravel roads, it didn't matter which you traveled, the dust would be thick. From a child's perspective, it seemed senseless to get yourself scrubbed red and raw, put on your Sunday best, and then arrive at church covered in dust. For the ladies, hats would be askew and their hair rearranged to the wind-blown look.

Women dressed in summer floral and pastel dresses, carried matching colorbooks and wore shoes freshly dyed to match and new nylon hose with seams up the back. But for all their care, the ladies fared poorly when contending with the heat, the dust and the lack of air conditioning.*

Men had their concerns when it came to clothes. But all endured the wetness of sweat trickling down their backs and patches of wetness staining their underarms.

Once at the church, you made your way down cool, dark halls and into the hot, cramped Sunday school rooms where the windows opened to the outdoors and no screens kept anything



**Four windows down, 60 miles per hour.*

from coming in. Some classes took up a collection to purchase electric fans that would sit on the corner of a desk and rotate back and forth, pushing hot air over everyone. For the first five minutes of Sunday school, you laughed and talked with friends you hadn't seen in a week. Of course, someone would say, "It sure is hot! Wonder if it will rain." Then one of the ladies in the ladies' class or one of the men in the men's class would take the roll, collect the pennies and nickels, and then all would enjoy a monotonous lecture on Paul's missionary journeys. If you were lucky, someone would ask a question and there would be a brief discussion. At long last, a bell would ring and everyone would heave a sigh of relief.

Outside, the men tilted back their fedoras or fanned their faces with them and gathered under the largest nearby tree to smoke Camels and Pall Malls and talk about the weather and baseball. The ladies gathered in small groups in the halls and aisles of the church talking about their children. Teenagers gathered under their own tree to flirt with one another. Boys and girls not yet old enough to flirt chased one another around and around the churchyard between all the trees, no matter how hot it was. Ladies with small children changed diapers, fetched cups of water and urged their charges to the toilet before preaching began. One of the men, having finished his smoke, would check his watch and announce, "Well, boys, its time to hear what the preacher has to say for hisself." All butts would be dropped on the ground and crushed with well-polished heels. Everyone then moved inside to what coolness the open windows and handheld fans provided.

Many of you probably have etched in your memories the handheld fans that flapped everywhere while you sat in the church pews. Those fans from so-and-so funeral home were illustrated with scenes of mountain valleys and sparkling creeks

or fall scenes of shocked corn standing in fields surrounded by orange pumpkins under bright blue skies. On the other side of the fan was the name of the funeral home, a telephone number that started with three letters, not numbers, the address of the funeral home and the owner's name.

The book-holders on the backs of the pews contained not only the fans but also worn and often faded hymn books. Stuck in the little pencil holder holes were those Juicy Fruit chewing gum wrappers. You couldn't blame the kids for putting the wrappers in the little holes. Every well-meaning grandmother carried chewing gum and passed it out freely. And, if you felt under the pews at the back of the church where the teenagers sat, more often than not you would find wads of gum.

With fans going, the pianist would play on the old upright piano that always needed tuning, and then it would sound like Sunday. They'd play again and again old hymns everyone knew and could hum. You could know what week of the month it was by what hymn was being played. Flies buzzed in and out of the windows. An occasional wasp pestered the whole congregation until it was swatted with a rolled up Sunday School quarterly. Men craned their necks around the ladies' hats. You didn't have to listen close to hear someone swat a fidgeting child. When time came for the offering, the same men prayed the same prayers they had practiced over and over again, and they went ahead and passed the plates. The men always seemed ill-at-ease as they stood waiting for the plate to make it to the end of the aisle.

The eight or so folks who made up the choir would stand to sing. There were always twice as many women as men. Choir members came in all sizes, but their ages were uniform, mostly older folk. Mrs. So-and-So was always off-key and too loud. Sister Too-Much-Makeup was more interested in being seen by every man in the church than in singing. Later, Mr. So-and-So would doze off and snore during preaching.

Finally the good pastor would stand in his black suit, white shirt and squeaky black shoes to deliver the message from on high. The funeral home fans beat back and forth, creating a hot breeze. When you opened up your big, black Bible, out slid the bulletins, pictures, newspaper clippings of funerals and other bits you kept in the sacred book. You'd hear some mischievous child getting a second swat. No one would dare to leave for a drink of water or a bathroom visit. The preacher would do his best to impart God's word while keeping folks awake and attentive. Flies and wasps would do their best to demand attention away from the preacher. And if old Satan were anyplace about, a bird would fly in through an open window and fail to find the next nearest open window. Then the preacher would reach his final point, come to conclusion, and issue the invitation for all to stand and sing, "Just As I Am" – all 100 verses.

Wet with sweat, all filed out of the church past the pastor, shaking his hand and commenting on the wonderful sermon. Small groups gathered, some in the hot sun and some under the shade of the trees, to converse for a few minutes about relatives and who was to do what at the upcoming social or homecoming. When the August heat became too much

to bear, folks climbed into the hot old Fords and Chevrolets, burning their hind parts on seats hot enough to fry eggs, the heavy upholstery smelling like it had already burned up. You endured the same heat you suffered on the way to church. The only consolation was the breeze scented with honeysuckle that drifted through the four windows. Those wise in the ways of church managed a hasty departure so they would not have to endure the additional dust of cars in front of them. Should you be one of those who lingered, you could count on the dust being so thick you couldn't see the car in front of you and would move along at a cautious 15 miles per hour.

Oh, the joy of entering the cool house and taking off hot shoes and sweaty Sunday clothes! Mama went straight to the kitchen to don her apron and set about putting dinner on the table. (If it was the Sunday the preacher came to dinner, everyone had to keep on his or her Sunday clothes until he left.) When Mama had the chicken on the table, everyone was called and sat down in their places. Daddy or Grandpa would ask the blessing, unless the preacher was there and he would ask the blessing. Over platters of sliced tomatoes, biscuits, fried okra and squash, the adults talked about what went on in church, who wore what and what they didn't like that the preacher said. With dinner over and dishes being washed, the men retired to the front porch to smoke or chew and listen to the baseball game on the radio, unless the preacher was there, and then the men only smoked and no one turned on the radio for fear of hearing something offensive to the preacher. As the baseball game wound into the late innings, the kids became worn out from running and hollering, and all would load back into the car and be off to visit grandparents.



Donna Hardy

WHAT THE COACH SAID TO THE UMPIRE

... and other true life stories that make you laugh

The craziest stories usually are those that actually happened. Like the time a car crashed into Jake and Sadie's house late one night and woke up Sadie, who called out, "Is that you, Jake?" You end up telling them over and over again. Here are some that you sent to us. Thanks to everyone who submitted something. You can see more on our Web site at www.carolinacountry.com. Next month we'll publish the best of your favorite photos (due July 15). For the remaining themes of 2003, see page 18.

— Michael E.C. Gery, editor

Calling them as he sees them

This is a true story that actually happened during a high school baseball game. Since the individuals involved are quite well known, at least in Davidson County, I have purposely not referred to them by name.

A certain high school baseball coach has always had a tendency to disagree with any umpire's call that does not favor his team. In a recent game, he had constantly questioned the consistency of the man in blue's strike zone. When one of his players was thrown out in a very close play at home, Coach charged the ump and protested the decision vehemently. Having put up with the coach's antics to his limit, the umpire ejected Coach from the contest.

Following the rulebook, which states that a banished player or coach must be "out of sight and sound," the abused official told the coach, "You must go where I can't see you."

This was the coach's opportunity for the perfect squelch, and he countered by going directly to home plate and saying, "I guess that means I'll stand right here, because you haven't seen anything that happened here all night."

*Kent Allen
Lexington
EnergyU*

Changing color

Mr. Rother, my daughter-in-law's dad, was a "Sanford and Son" fan. Every night at the same time "Sanford and Son" was to come on he would go into the living room, turn on the TV, sit down, take his hat

off, and lay it by the chair. He would not say much until his program had ended.

One day unbeknown to him, his daughter-in-law took his TV to be worked on, leaving her color TV in the place of his. She knew "Sanford and Son" would be on that night and didn't want to get on the wrong side of Mr. Rother.

So that night he came in, turned on the TV, and sat back, and the first words out of his mouth were, "Well, I'll be darned, Sanford has painted his truck!"

*Lucy Allen
Four Oaks
South River EMC*



A half won't harm anyone

My friend Jenny and I had been faithfully following a diet program for two months and had not eaten any sweets during that time. One morning we met for breakfast and successfully stayed on program, eating only boiled eggs, dry toast, orange juice and black coffee. Next to us sat a gentleman who was leisurely breakfasting on three glazed donuts. We were very envious of him.

The man left his seat at the counter, leaving one untouched

donut behind. My friend nudged me and pointed at it, saying, "Look! We can't let that go to waste. Grab it before the waitress clears it away!"

Without pause or second thought we halved the donut and were happily licking our fingertips when the gentleman returned to his seat from the bathroom. We kept our eyes lowered and red faces averted as he questioned the waitress, and before he could consider us, we made a hasty retreat out the door.

*Sandra Roberts
Morganton
Rutherford EMC*

Learning early

My sister took her little granddaughter shopping with her one day. She was buying a lot of things on her credit card. Eventually, her granddaughter spoke up and asked her, "Grandma, when you die, can I have that card?"

*Mary King
Largo, Fla.*

Did she or didn't she?

When my father was growing up, his life was made more interesting by the pranks of his four younger sisters: Emmy, Elizabeth, Catherine and Louise. One evening after supper when he realized that one serving of dessert remained, he slipped it into a back corner of the icebox for a later treat. To ensure that it remained his and his alone, he wrote a note saying, "I spit in this. Thomas." And propped it next to the dessert.

Some time later he returned for his prize and found an addition to his note. It said simply, "So did I. Catherine."

*Keren Wheeler
Lansing
Blue Ridge Electric*

We're out of here

Every Saturday evening, my boyfriend and I would go to a different restaurant for dinner. We tried all kinds of foods and never dined at the same place twice.

One restaurant – we'll call it Damian's – had an unusual menu with duck, pheasant and things we had never tried. We were seated, given a pitcher of water, two glasses, and bread with butter on a beautifully decorated plate. The table was complete with linen cover, silverware, fresh flowers and a candle.

When my boyfriend looked at the menu, he got a terrified look on his face. He told me the prices were too steep, and we could not afford to dine there. I told him not to worry; we could just get up quietly and slowly and walk out. In his panic, he checked his pockets to see how much money he had and inadvertently tucked the edge of the tablecloth into his pocket with his money.

I'm sure you can guess what happened. Yes, water pitcher, glasses, candle, silverware, flowers, bread and butter went crashing everywhere as he got up from his seat to make our slow, quiet departure.

*Karen L. Vanak
Trinity*

How to earn a nickname

Our friend, Lloyd, told us about his family reunion and his Aunt Irene. He said she had become intoxicated and several of the family members tried to get her into the house to lie down. She refused.

It wasn't long before she passed out in front of the picnic tables. People just walked around her being careful not to step on her. No one wanted her to get hurt. She had been out for awhile when Uncle Charlie, her husband, who had gone to the beer store, you know, for more beer, came back.

Well, he decided it was too far to walk from where the cars were parked, so he'd just drive up to those picnic tables so as not to have so far to walk. Everyone started yelling for him to STOP! Being slightly intoxicated himself, Uncle Charlie couldn't figure out why they were yelling. So he just kept coming.

Well, sure enough, he ran right over Aunt Irene. It scared him so bad he put that car in reverse and backed right over her again.

I asked Lloyd: "What did you do?" He said, "There were so many people over there, I just sat in my car and watched. 'Twern't nothing I could do."

"Did it kill her?" I asked. "Naw, it broke her arm. We all just call her 'Speed Bump' now."

*Linda Linville
Dobson
Surry-Yadkin EMC*

Saturday morning news

Several years ago our family moved to Boone so my husband could go to graduate school at Appalachian State University. We had three young children at the time and lived in university housing on campus. Every Saturday morning it became a ritual for my husband to walk down the hill from our apartment to a newspaper stand outside the business building, taking our three sons along with him to get the Saturday Winston-Salem Journal. It was about 200 yards away but visible from our home.

One Saturday, our 8-year-old asked if he could go get the paper "all by myself." My husband thought a moment then gave his permission to go ahead. He gave Josh the quarter and told him to be careful. We watched as our son went off, feeling a little apprehensive but knowing we needed to start letting him grow up some.

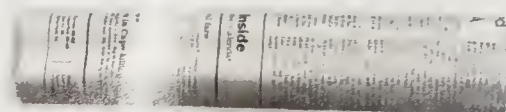
We watched him the whole way. He walked down to the newspaper stand, stood there a few moments, then came back. When he got back to us he had no paper. My husband asked where the paper was, and Josh replied that they were out.

"Then where's my quarter?" asked my husband.

Josh said, "I put it in the machine."

My husband then asked why he put in a quarter if the machine was empty. Josh said that he didn't know it was empty until he opened it up and there were no papers inside.

His dad then asked why he didn't see through the glass that it was empty. Josh replied, "There was a paper in the way."



*Rise Harris
Dobson
Surry-Yadkin EMC*

Why he sits in the back

This story is very true, and it happened to my husband and me. We stopped to get gas at the filling station, and once I paid we started off to a local mall. Well, I talked and talked to my husband who never answered, because he sat in the back seat.

Once at the mall, I turned to the back seat and no husband! This made me laugh, so I went back to the filling station. There was my husband, so upset that he called the police.

He got out to go to the men's room and never told me.

*Helen L. Oliver
Avon
Cape Hatteras Electric*

Locked in

A good story is the best, but when it's true, it's even finer.

A good friend of mine asked me to meet her husband at Frank's and give him a ride home. He drives a semi, and someone else was going to deliver his load for him. I took him home and didn't think anything more about it until the next day when she called to thank me.

She said he didn't have a key and had to crawl through the window. When she asked him if he made it in okay without breaking anything, his response was, "Getting in was pretty easy, but crawlin' back out that window was the tricky part."

Occasionally, when they're not at home, I call and leave this message. "Someone help me! I'm locked in my house and can't get the window open!"

*Frances Callicutt
Carthage
Randolph EMC*

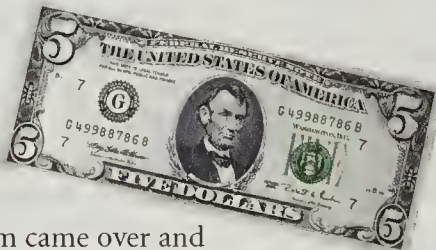
Get some new ones

A friend of mine was sitting in the doctor's office waiting to be called back in. A young boy around 3 or 4 was actively moving about, going under the chairs, sitting on top of the tables, and just having a good time. His mother kept calling him down and was becoming quite exasperated in her efforts to keep him still. In frustration, she finally picked him up and set him in a chair in a no-nonsense fashion.

The little boy began to cry, "My balls, you broke my balls!" He then reached in his pockets and pulled out some crushed Ping-Pong balls.

An older gentleman sitting across the room came over and gave the little boy five dollars and said, "Here son, get you some new balls. You just made my day."

*Sandra H. Guyton
Elizabethtown
Four County EMC*



Moonpie wedding cake

When my daughter Gail was 17, she was asked to bake a wedding cake for a wedding. Well, Gail made wonderful cakes, but when she started on the couple's layer wedding cake, the bottom layer fell. Gail didn't have any more time to add another layer, so she put two moonpies under the rest of the cake, with icing. They said no one would notice. Well, they didn't notice. They said it had the best taste they had ever tasted.

*Theresa Hamner
Alleghany County
Blue Ridge EMC*

Send us your best Earn \$50

Here are the themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series. Send us your stories and pictures. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

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"Why I Like My Electric Cooperative"

Is a cooperative different than other utilities?
Deadline: August 15

NOVEMBER 2003

"The Finest Neighbor I Ever Knew"

Tell us why and send a photo.
Deadline: Sept. 15

DECEMBER 2003

"How to Live a Long and Happy Life"

Do you know an older person who sets a good example for staying healthy and happy? Send a photo, too.
Deadline: Oct. 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less. We retain reprint rights.
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3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos must be 300 dpi and actual size.
4. E-mail or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay \$50 for each submission published.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com. Or through the Web: www.carolinacountry.com

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Ever since the first human went into a dark cave and built a fire, people have realized the importance of proper indoor lighting. Unfortunately, since Edison invented the light bulb, lighting technology has remained relatively prehistoric. Modern light fixtures do little to combat many symptoms of improper lighting, such as eyestrain, dryness or burning. As more and more of us spend longer hours in front of a computer monitor, the results are compounded. And the effects of indoor lighting are not necessarily limited to physical well being. Many people believe that the quantity and quality of light can play a part in one's mood and work performance. Now, there's

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...and when you need a source of balanced light for close-up tasks.

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and especially for aging eyes. For artists, the Balanced Spectrum Floor Lamp can bring a source of natural light into a studio, and show the true colors of a work. This lamp has a flexible gooseneck design for maximum efficiency and a dual position control switch for 18 and 27 watts of power, with an "Instant On" switch that is flicker-free. The high fidelity electronics, ergonomically correct design, and bulb that lasts five times longer than an ordinary bulb make this product a must-see.

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Dennis M.
Richmond, VA

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Old Cookbook Reveals

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by Guy Coalter,
Special Features Writer

Canton OH, Special - With

hundreds of servants at her command... a person would think our first First Lady was a woman of leisure.

Not so... according to a new historical discovery. A long out-of-print volume entitled, *"The Martha Washington Cook Book"* shows Mrs. Washington personally supervised her entire household staff... and especially the kitchen and dining room servants.

Martha made sure every dish served at Mount Vernon... as well as in the first Presidential *"White Houses"* in New York and Philadelphia... was prepared exactly as called for in her personal cookbook.

The family cookbook was given to Martha at the time of her first marriage.

In 1749, beautiful seventeen-year-old Martha Dandridge married Daniel Parke Custis. As a wedding gift, the Custis family presented Martha with a family cookbook entitled *Booke of Cookery and Booke of Sweetmeats*.

Handwritten by an unknown hand, there is evidence the recipe book had been in the Custis family for generations. It is quite likely this was a family heirloom dating back to the early 1600s. In all, there were over five hundred classic recipes, dating largely from Elizabethan and Jacobean times, the golden age of English cookery.

Later, Martha Custis became a widow and in 1759 she married Col. George Washington. Washington was to become the Father of our country and its first President. Martha, of course, became our very first, *"First Lady."*

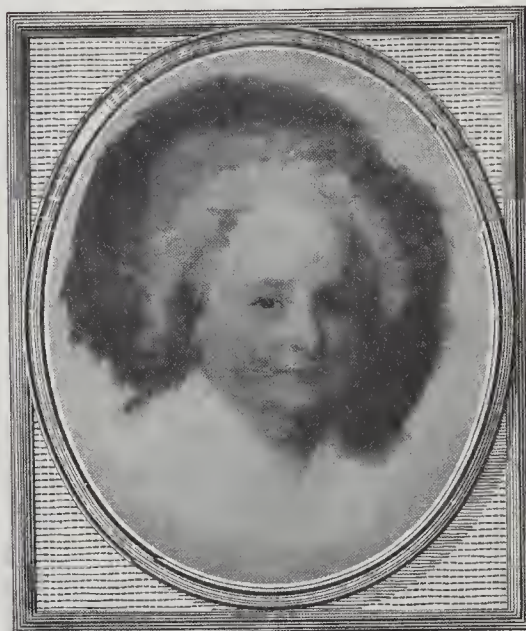
Martha kept and used her family cookbook for over fifty years. In 1799, she presented the book to her granddaughter, Eliza Parke Custis as a wedding gift when she married Lawrence Lewis.

The book was handed down from mother to daughter until 1892 when the Lewis family presented it to The Historical Society of Pennsylvania where it still resides.

In 1940, the society gave permission to historian Marie Kimball to study the manuscript and prepare a cookbook entitled, *"The Martha Washington Cook Book."* Although now long out of print, an Ohio

publisher was recently commissioned to reprint a limited edition of this rare and amusing piece of Americana.

Accordingly, a limited number of copies are being made available to the public at this time. Each volume is numbered and when the present printing is exhausted, there is no contract to print more. These cookbooks could very easily become valuable collectors items.



Martha Washington

"The Martha Washington Cook Book" includes facsimile copies of several actual pages from the one-of-a-kind original manuscript. Then, Mrs. Kimball chose over 200 delicious unique recipes from Martha Washington's personal cookbook and completely modernized them so you can easily prepare them in your own kitchen!

The original recipes were written for a huge household including numerous servants. Many called for dozens of eggs and gallons of one thing or another. Marie Kimball *"trimmed"* each recipe to quantities of ingredients for a family of six.

You'll get dozens of delicious recipes for Soups, Fish, Meats, Meat Pies, Poultry and Game, Sauces, Eggs - Mushrooms and Cheese, Fritters and Pancakes, Pastry - Pies and Tarts, Cakes, Creams and Jellies, Puddings, Preserves, and Beverages.

Perhaps more interesting for us history buffs is the detailed description of the kitchen and dining habits in the George Washington household. Martha sat at the head of the table with her husband at her side to the right.

Despite dozens of servants around the table, either Martha or George always carved the meats to be served!

You'll absolutely love dozens of other interesting details of this historical dining room.

"The Martha Washington Cook Book" is a beautiful perfect bound book you will be proud to display on your coffee table, bookshelf, or where ever you keep your very best books.

Your friends and neighbors are guaranteed to be envious... *and you are guaranteed to be completely satisfied with your cookbook.* You may examine and use it for a full three months and return it for a full no-questions-asked refund if you desire.

Although not available in bookstores, you may order your cookbook directly from the publisher. There is a strict limit however, of only two copies per customer.

To get your copy, simply write your name and address on a plain piece of paper. Mail it along with your remittance of only 29.95 plus \$3.98 postage and handling (total of \$33.93) to: Washington Cookbook, Special Offer MC2058, 718 - 12th Street N.W., Box 24500, Canton, Ohio 44701.

You may charge to VISA or MasterCard by including your card number, expiration date and signature. For even faster service, have your credit card handy and telephone toll-free 1-800-772-7285 and ask for Special Offer MC2058.

Act within the next 15 days and the publisher will include a free bonus... *a selection of delightful recipes from the personal cookbook of President Thomas Jefferson!*

"The Martha Washington Cookbook" makes an appreciated gift for any gift-giving occasion. Readers of this publication may request a second copy for only \$16.02 postpaid. (Total of \$49.95 for both.)

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Down East Scenes

Photography by Gerald Yokely

Moments In Carolina Photography
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momentsincarolina@att.net



Maybe this one ran aground while bringing in the Christmas tree.



Sailboat at sunset in the harbor at Beaufort.



Where would

By Janno Daniel

North Carolina benefits from having more than 10,000 beekeepers, more than any state in the nation. We also rank among the top 10 in number of beehives, and most of these belong to hobbyists with a passion for keeping bees.

Bees were buzzing around long before human presence on Earth. There is fossil evidence that flowering plants depended on pollination millions of years ago. Among the pollinators were honeybees. Bees stored their reserves of honey in rock crevices and trees. When early humans discovered the sweetness of honey, they sought its sources.

Eva Crane tells the story in "The Archaeology of Beekeeping." The earliest evidence of "honey hunting" (beekeeping is different and came about later in time) comes from Paleolithic cave paintings primarily in Europe and Africa that possibly date from the last Ice Age of 30,000 to 9,000 B.C. Among the earliest known cave paintings is one found in Spain depicting five figures climbing a ladder leading to a nest with bees all around. Drawn standing beneath the base of the tall thin tree is a group, perhaps awaiting their share of honey.

We do not know when honey hunting evolved into beekeeping. The earliest certain evidence of beekeeping comes from Egypt, where scenes were painted in temples and tombs. The scenes tell us that in 2,400 B.C., beekeeping was already a well-developed craft that remained unchanged for centuries. Ornate containers with honey and honey products were buried with the pharaohs along with detailed hieroglyphic writings on bees and their honeycombs. A surviving papyrus fragment lists an offering made to the Nile god by Rameses III, sometime after 2,000 B.C. Incredibly, all 15 tons of honey were sacrificially tossed into the Nile River.

It is very likely that the transition from honey hunting to beekeeping came when a hut dweller noticed a swarm of bees had settled in a felled log or a basket left outside the dwelling. The good fortune of having the colony in a place where taking the comb would be much easier than climbing a dangerous tree could easily have posed the transition.

Humans learned quickly to make simple hives and keep them close to their dwellings. Hives were constructed of materials available to the particular culture, whether a hollowed-out log, pottery, woven material, or mud and wattle. Later hives became basket-like "skeps" made of straw, which could easily be moved or transported.

Early beekeepers managed to harvest plenty of honey, however sadly, at the expense of the bees. They killed the colony with sulfur smoke or other means to remove the sweet, golden goodness and much sought-after beeswax. After the harvest, they waited for a new swarm to arrive and settle.

Because it was difficult to observe life in a hive without removing the comb, early beekeepers knew little about the bees themselves — their biology, behavior or division of labor. They didn't understand pollination or the need for it in early agriculture. It was not until the Middle Ages that protective clothing for beekeeping was devised. Earlier protection was probably no more than a cloth thrown over the head during the harvest.

It was not until the 1500s that the queen was recognized as an egg-laying female, the 1600s that the drones were recognized as males, and the 1700s that the workers were recognized as females. People soon learned about the significance these insects contributed to farming and gardening. Settlers who moved usually carried their honeybee colonies with them.

The honeybee (species *Apis mellifera*) known in prehistoric Europe and Asia and now raised almost exclusively here is not native to the Americas. Beekeeping in North America began in the 1600s when early settlers transported the essential honeybee possessions in straw basketlike skeps.

Even into the first half of the 1800s, people took honey from the hives by destroying the living colonies. They devised various hive constructions, including some with movable frames for the comb, to take the honey without sacrificing the bees, but none was truly successful. Finally in 1851, Reverend Lorenzo L. Langstroth ingeniously perceived and published a missing element.

Langstroth's insightful discovery, the existence of "bee space," revolutionized beekeeping. Bee space — a mere three-eighths of an inch — is space within a hive between removable frames and other spaces the honeybee does not fill with comb. Thus, honey can be collected by taking out and returning frames, with no harm to the bees. The Langstroth hive continues to be successfully used today. Deemed "The Father of

Can we live without bees?




Modern Beekeeping,” L. L. Langstroth and his discovery enabled honeybee colonies to flourish. As a result, beekeeping has become an essential component of agriculture in the United States.

It has been said that beekeeping is practiced over a greater area of the earth's surface than any other single branch of agriculture. Certainly the success of other branches requiring crop pollination depends on it. Beekeepers are a link in what will be on our dinner table this evening. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture reminds us that one-third of the human diet is derived directly or indirectly from insect pollinated foods. *Apis mellifera*, says The National Honey Board, is responsible for 80 percent of all insect-pollinated crops in the U.S.

Mike Stanghellini, North Carolina State University apiculturist and executive director of the North Carolina State Beekeepers Association, explains that the honeybee contributes \$90 million to North Carolina's agricultural economy through the pollination of crops such as apples, blueberries, strawberries and vine crops including cucumbers and melons. On average, North Carolina bee-

keepers produce between 5 and 6 million pounds of honey with an approximate \$10 million economic value. In addition, bee-pollinated grain crops fed to livestock in turn becomes the meat and milk we consume. Add in an annual 12,000 pounds of beeswax — a greatly prized commodity for the cosmetics and candle industries — and the significance of beekeeping becomes apparent.

Of interest to increasing numbers of North Carolinians are the large portions of the diet of North Carolina's wildlife that feed on the

berries, seeds and nuts of bee-pollinated plants. The value of honeybees to nature's web is complex but real. Clearly, without the total contribution of honeybees, we would certainly live in a very different, less productive and less interesting world. 

Janno Daniel, a member of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, is a beekeeper in Montgomery County.



Information about beekeeping and honey

The National Honey Board
www.nhb.org

North Carolina State Beekeepers Association (NCSBA)
Don Moore, president
3634 Stoney Creek Church Road
Elon, NC 27244-9514
www.ncbeekeepers.org

North Carolina State University, College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences
www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/ent/Bees/

Visit the NCSBA's live bee exhibit and educational demonstrations on summer weekends at the North Carolina Zoo, Asheville.

Bee illustration by Nicole L. Ferrari

Tours of Rachel Carson Reserve

Estuary trips are offered to the public through September 30 by the N.C. National Estuarine Research Reserve on Pivers Island. The two-hour walking trip is through Rachel Carson Reserve in Beaufort at low tide, with guides pointing out marsh plants such as sea lavender and critters such as the striped hermit crab. There's also a boat trip offered at high tide. There is no fee for either trip, but the organization does accept donations. To reserve a trip, call (252) 728-2170 or visit www.ncnerr.org.



Personal pans

Brinda Thompson of North Wilkesboro hand-engraves her designs on 9-by-9 or 9-by-13-inch pans used for baking or storing food. Each pan has a person's name, along with a selected image. Designs include bears, a hummingbird, bluebirds, a hen with eggs, a banjo-playing pig, a lighthouse, butterflies, pineapples, chili peppers, angels and roses. Cake and brownie pans available. Colors are hunter green, royal blue and cranberry red. \$24.95. Call (336) 696-4538 or visit www.personalpan.com.



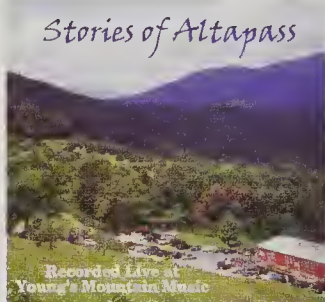
Aromatic soaps and creams

Anderson Street Soap Company was formed out of a need for good products, says owner David Holcomb. He and wife, Lesa, of Fuquay Varina sought a good cleaning soap that would leave skin soft, and research helped him design several formulas. The company's stores in Selma and Wilson sell bathing soaps and conditioning products, including emu cream and a mango coconut soap, along with tangy essential oils, terra cotta scented rings and candles. Their Royal Honey Glycerin Bar is 5 ounces and sells for \$6.79. Visit www.andersonsoapco.com or call (919) 475-1155.



"Stories of Altapass"

Musician Randy Flack and storyteller Bill Carson blend their talents on this CD to tell stories about Altapass, a history-rich hamlet on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Mountain residents shared tales about their families, which Carson translates with the help of Flack's guitar and banjo. The 12-track CD, recorded live, costs \$15. Proceeds go to the Altapass Foundation, a nonprofit organization promoting cultural and environmental preservation through special events at The Orchard at AltaPass. Call (888) 765-9531 or visit www.altapassorchard.com.

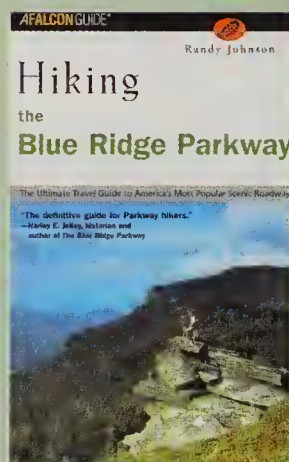


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ON THE BOOKSHELF



"Hiking The Blue Ridge Parkway"
Randy Johnson's new book beckons readers to explore the culture and scenery of America's first frontier. Subtitled "The Ultimate Guide to America's Most Popular Scenic Roadway," the book includes trail descriptions, difficulty ratings, topographic trail maps and directions for this mountaintop motor trail. National and state parks and private preserves that line the southern Appalachian route are mentioned, along with a mileage log to inter-pretative sites, museums, visitor centers and campgrounds. Johnson, who lives in Banner Elk and Greensboro, also wrote "Hiking North Carolina." "Hiking The Blue Ridge Parkway" is \$24.95. Softcover, 320 pages, Globe Pequot Press of Waterbury, Conn. Call (800) 541-0745 or visit www.GlobePequot.com.

"From Here To There"

Growing up, North Carolina's western border pressed tobacco, truck and lessons for 10 cents a pack and Clavertonville, an experienced alchemist when contracts weren't necessary — a world where was his bond. Nothing fast nor soon, but a man of a heart. From a boy takes us from his earliest memory of age 3 to graduation from high school to the 1940s. Hardcover, 182 pages, \$22.95. Published by A. A. Knopf, in New York. E-mail aa@aa.com or visit www.aa.com.

From Here To There



by Taylor Reese

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26	----	----	12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
27	----	----	12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
28	----	----	12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
29	----	----	12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
30	----	----	12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
31	----	----	12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
32	----	----	12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
33	----	----	12.43	11.38	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
34	----	----	12.43	11.46	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
35	----	----	12.43	11.64	14.88	13.56	24.50	21.88
36	----	----	12.78	11.99	15.53	14.22	25.81	23.19
37	----	----	13.21	12.51	16.41	15.31	27.56	25.38
38	----	----	13.56	13.04	17.06	16.41	28.88	27.56
39	----	----	14.09	13.74	17.94	17.50	30.63	29.75
40	----	----	14.61	14.35	19.03	18.81	32.81	32.38
41	----	----	15.66	14.96	20.78	19.91	36.31	34.56
42	----	----	16.98	15.66	22.97	21.22	40.69	37.19
43	----	----	18.11	16.10	25.38	22.09	45.50	38.94
44	----	----	19.51	16.71	27.78	23.41	50.31	41.56
45	----	----	21.18	17.59	30.63	24.94	56.00	44.63
46	----	----	22.49	18.20	33.03	26.03	60.81	46.81
47	----	----	24.33	19.08	36.53	27.56	67.81	49.88
48	----	----	26.16	20.04	39.81	29.31	74.38	53.38
49	----	----	28.18	20.83	43.75	30.84	82.25	56.44
50	----	----	30.36	21.96	47.91	33.03	90.56	60.81

Call for more information

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$50,000		\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
51	----	----	32.64	23.19	51.84	35.22	98.44	65.19
52	----	----	35.35	24.59	56.88	37.84	108.50	70.44
53	----	----	38.06	26.16	61.91	40.69	118.56	76.13
54	----	----	40.86	27.65	67.38	43.31	129.50	81.38
55	----	----	44.36	29.58	73.72	46.81	142.19	88.38
56	----	----	50.31	32.73	84.66	51.84	164.06	98.44
57	----	----	56.96	35.96	96.91	57.31	188.56	109.38
58	----	----	64.14	39.64	110.03	63.00	214.81	120.75
59	----	----	71.23	43.31	123.16	69.13	241.06	133.00
60	----	----	80.15	47.86	139.56	76.34	273.88	147.44
61	----	----	86.01	52.24	150.28	83.34	295.31	161.44
62	----	----	93.80	57.93	164.50	92.53	323.75	179.81
63	----	----	101.50	63.61	178.94	101.72	352.63	198.19
64	----	----	109.38	69.21	193.38	110.91	381.50	216.56
65	----	----	119.09	76.30	211.31	122.28	417.38	239.31
66	----	----	133.96	84.18	241.28	137.38	477.31	269.50
67	----	----	153.65	94.68	281.75	157.28	558.25	309.31
68	----	----	173.43	105.18	322.00	177.41	638.75	349.56
69	----	----	193.29	115.76	362.25	197.75	719.25	390.25
70	----	----	218.05	128.98	412.78	222.91	820.31	440.56

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Additional ages and amounts
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A NEW DUPLIN COUNTY MUSEUM SHOWCASES

farm life in the “good old days”

Text and photos by Kim Whorton Tripp

Can you imagine a bill for \$2.90 for one month's electric service? Well, that's just what one member of Four County Electric Membership Corporation paid... in 1940. On display at the Tarkil Branch Farm's Homestead Museum in Duplin County is the original paperwork that describes when David and Ludie Fountain first got electric service from the cooperative in April 1940. All the original paperwork from when they became cooperative members and a booklet explaining how to use their electricity are also on display. The Fountain's home was the last one on Four County EMC lines. Jones-Onslow EMC's service begins less than a mile down the road. Those folks who lived in between had to wait another four or five years for the electric lines to reach them.



That is just one story of many preserved for posterity at this special country museum. Benny and Annette Fountain recently opened the Tarkil Branch Farm's Homestead Museum, located on part of the working 300-acre farm that has been in the Fountain family since 1912. It has been an arduous process, requiring countless hours of hard work, but it is plainly a labor of love.

Nothing is wasted or taken for granted here on the Tarkil Branch Farm. The Fountains have followed the wise lead of earlier generations and have put everything in their possession to good use. The home of David and Ludie Fountain, Benny's parents, has been charmingly restored and now his daughter and her family live there, just across the road from the museum. When Benny replaced the windows in his own home, he used the old sash windows as display cases in the visitor's center. People who know him donate their own artifacts or offer old buildings for the museum. They trust that he will honor their history and preserve it. Many of his exhibits come straight from his own life and childhood and that of his parents and grandparents.

The museum comprises 10 buildings, including a wonderfully preserved “Doghouse” farmhouse from the 1830s, a tobacco barn, a corncrib, a smokehouse, a country store and a chicken house which now serves as an exhibit hall. There's also a modern visitors center with exhibits, a seating area and bathroom facilities.

On four acres of land there are 32 exhibits featuring more than 850 items that elicit the sights, sounds, feel and even the smell, of bygone days

on the farm. You'll find feed sack dresses, antique quilts, and a foot pedal sewing machine. Handmade kitchen tables and chairs (many built by Benny's grandfather), used for many years by the Fountain family, now provide comfort in the visitor's center. The chicken house exhibit hall displays dozens of exhibits including one on the near forgotten art of gathering turpentine. You can find farm or kitchen tools for any purpose, a 1941 child's buggy, and an antique bill for a doctor's house call.

The Fountains hope to host tours of their museum

beginning this year, targeting middle school students who are studying North Carolina history and senior citizens who can remember the good old days when living was hard work. Groups are permitted to visit. Picnic lunches are welcome or catering



is available for groups. For more information, appointments or reservations, call (910) 298-3804.

Former Carolina Country associate editor Kim Whorton Tripp lives in Raleigh.

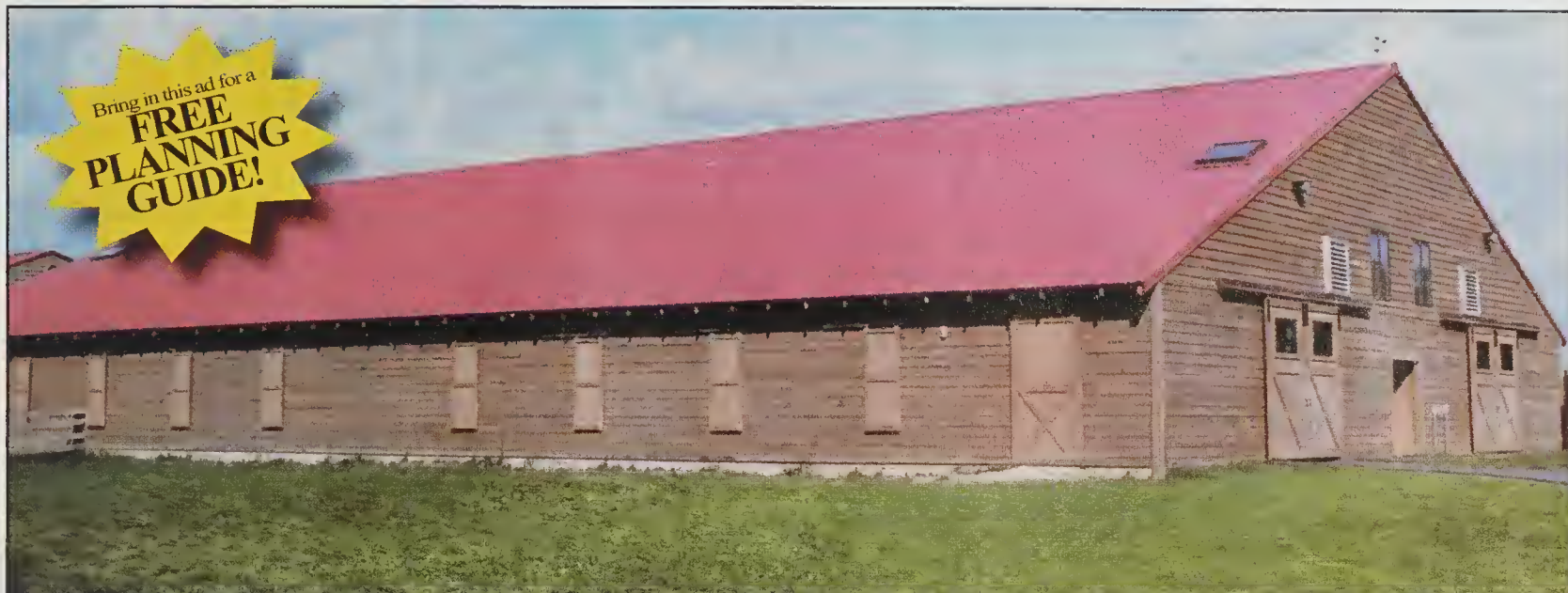
DIRECTIONS:

The Tarkil Branch Farm's Homestead Museum is located in Duplin County at 1198 Fountaintown Road, Beulaville, N.C.

From eastbound I-40 take exit 373 to Hwy. 24. Go 7.4 miles to Kenansville, then 10.2 miles east to Beulaville, then 3.5 miles to Fountaintown Road. Right on Fountaintown Road, go 4.1 miles to museum on your right.

From Hwy. US 17 in Jacksonville: Take Hwy. 258/24 East 6.6 miles to Hwy. 111 North. Turn left and go 10.6 miles past Albert Ellis Airport to Fountaintown. Turn right on Fountaintown Road and go 2 miles to the museum on the left.

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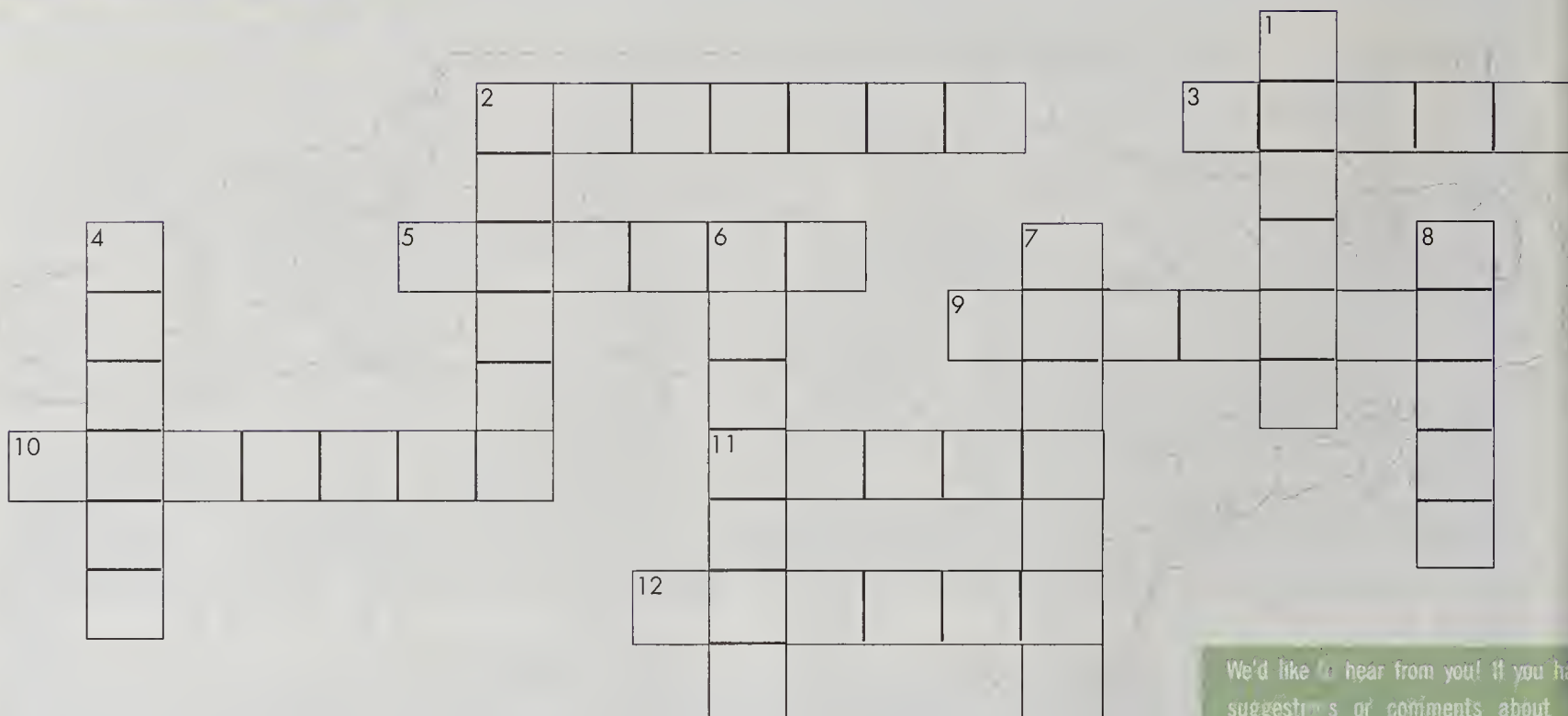
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Famous North Carolinians Crossword

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ACROSS

2. Seventh president and host of wild White House parties
3. Novelist who wrote "Look Homeward, Angel"
5. Widely admired evangelist from Charlotte
9. Director of movies such as "The Ten Commandments"
10. First Lady who saved a portrait of George Washington
11. Former senator known as "Senator Sam"
12. Short story writer better known as "O. Henry"

DOWN

1. Sports commentator from Winston-Salem
2. Former UNC Tarheel considered to be the world's best basketball player
4. Journalist who hosted "On the Road"
6. Author of "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"
7. Boxer who won five world titles
8. NASCAR driver with seven championships

This puzzle was created at www.puzzlemaker.com by Network Solution Developers, Inc.

We'd like to hear from you! If you have suggestions or comments about this bimonthly Youth page, Tar Heel Lessons, email Carolina.country@ncemcs.org or write Carolina Country Tar Heel Lessons, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611, or call (800) 662-8835 ext 30.



Miss M. Tuckle

Why did the jockey go the road?

and put up with it

Name: Mia Hamm. (Full name is Mariel Margaret Hamm.)

Accomplishments: Youngest person ever to play for the U.S. National Soccer Team (at age 15). Sprained her ankle at 1996 Olympic Games, but fought on to lead the U.S. team to victory over Norway (semifinal) and China (final). Broke the all-time international scoring record for men and women in 1999. Named FIFA Women's World Player of the Year for 2001 and 2002. Ended 2002 as world's all-time leading scorer. Hamm currently plays for the WUSA's Washington Freedom.

NC Connection: Led the Tar Heels to four national soccer championships while at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Finished as the ACC's all-time leading scorer. Graduated with a degree in political science.

Quote: "I will not let my teammates down and I will not let myself down."

Favorite sports: Soccer, basketball, golf.

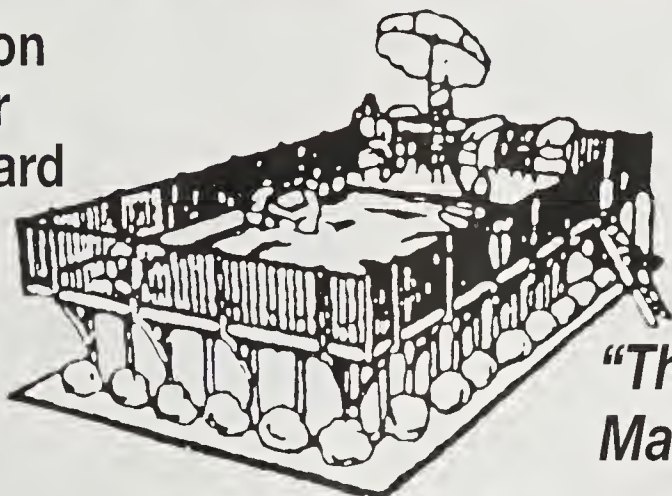
Superstition: Must tie her right shoe first, then her left shoe, before games.



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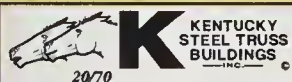
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from pg. 28

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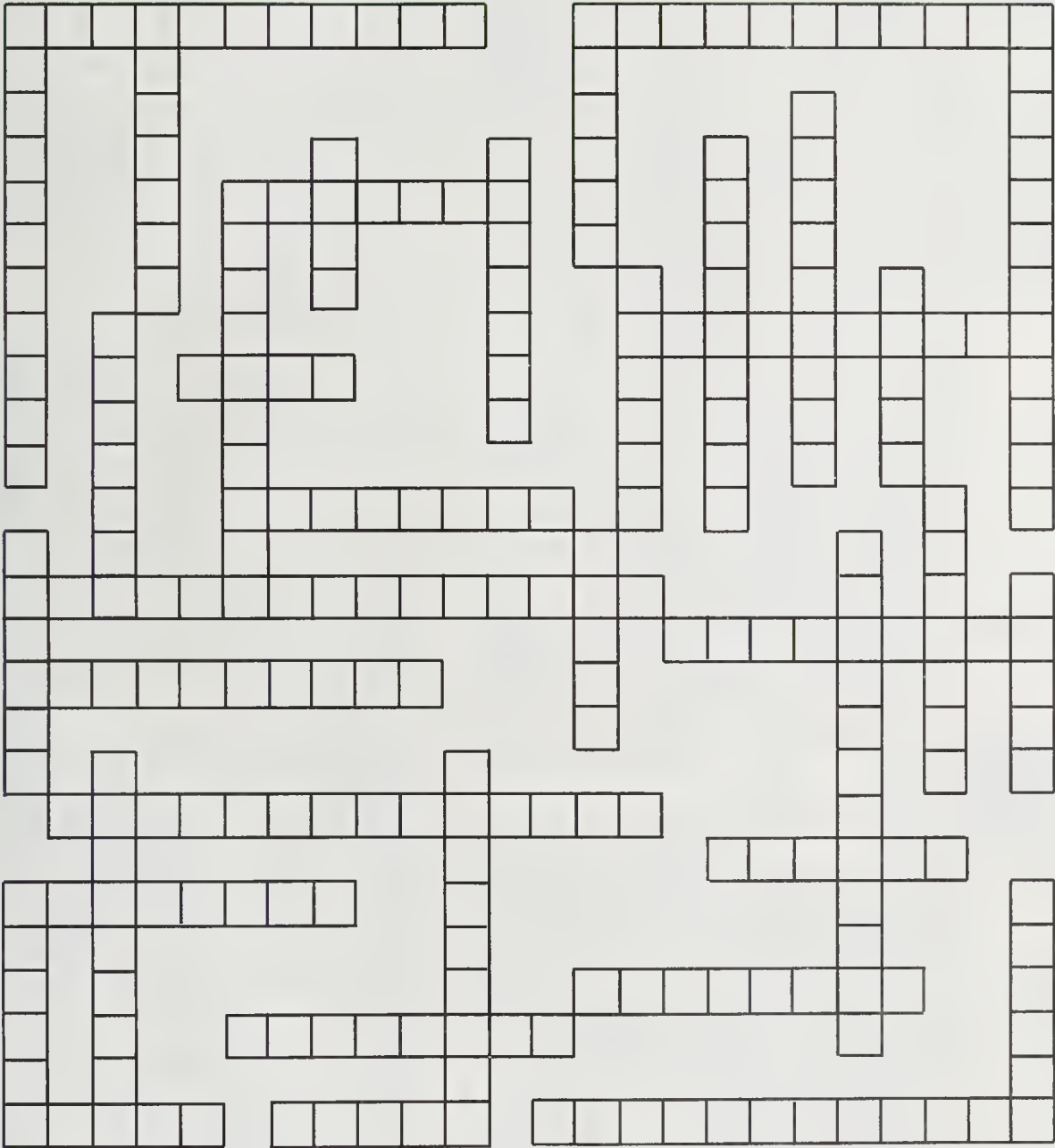
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7 LETTERS
BLENDER
FREEZER
PRINTER
STEAMER
TOASTER

8 LETTERS
CDPLAYER
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9 LETTERS
CANOPENER
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Solutions on pg 34



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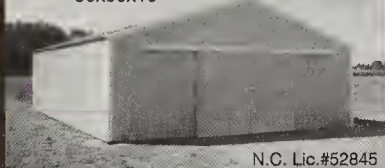
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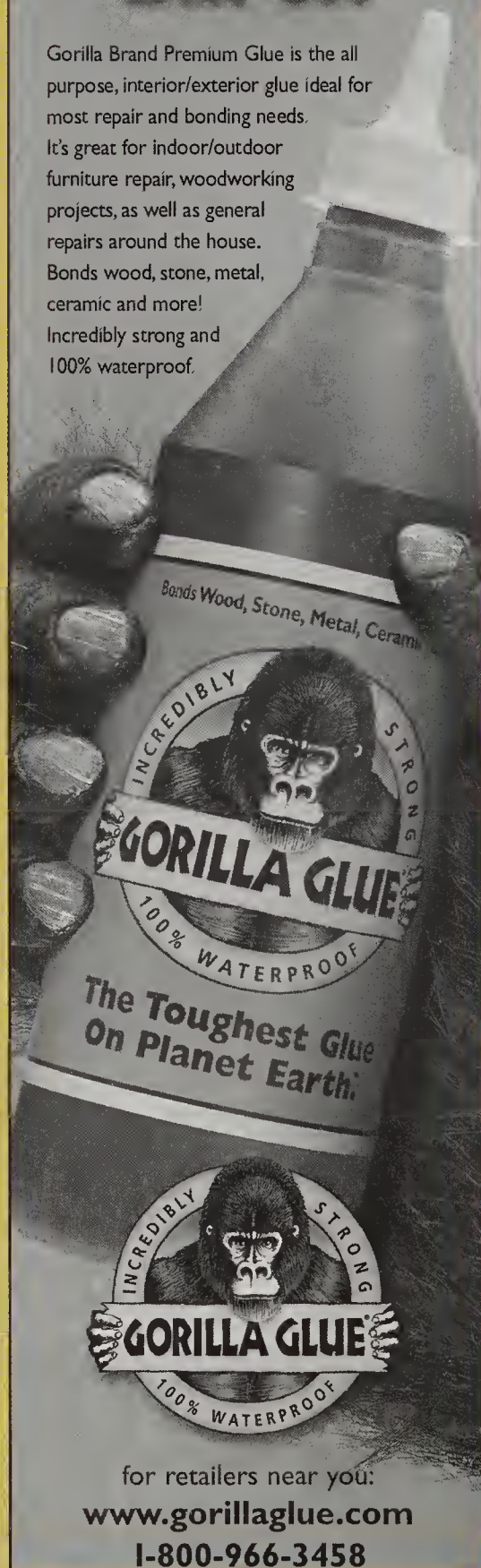
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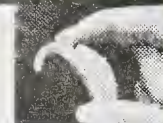
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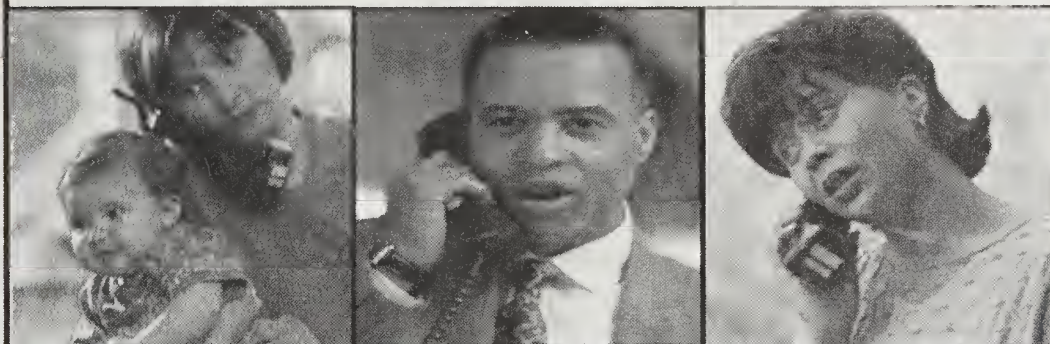
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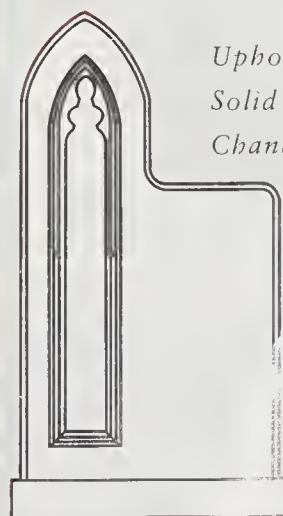
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34 AUGUST 2003 Carolina Country

August *EVENTS*

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Aug. 1-2. Burnsville.
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Aug. 2. Lake James.
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Live Music

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Beach Fest

Aug. 3. Boiling Springs.
(704) 434-2357.

Emile Pandolfi Concert

Aug. 9. West Jefferson.
(336) 246-ARTS.
www.ashecountyarts.org

Gold Recovery Dig

Aug. 15-16. Marion.
(828) 738-4893.

Barbershop Chorus/ Mountain Band

Aug. 23. West Jefferson.
(336) 246-ARTS.
www.ashecountyarts.org

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Aug. 23. Marion.
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Summer Concert

Aug. 23. Kings Mountain.
(704) 730-2103.

Ice Cream Sunday

Aug. 24. Boiling Springs.
(704) 434-2357.

Radio Hamfest

Aug. 30-31. Shelby.
(704) 482-4951.

Cradle of Forestry

Ongoing. Brevard.
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Schiele Museum

Ongoing. Gastonia. Grinding
Corn at the Grist Mill, Aug. 9 •
Hunting in Backcountry, Aug.
24 • Through Aug. 27, Beach
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www.schielemuseum.org

Mount Airy Museum of Regional History

Ongoing. Mount Airy.
Through mid-Aug.,
"Graduation" • Through Jan.
2004, "Still Life" •
(336) 786-4478.
www.northcarolinamuseum.org

Asheville Art Museum

Ongoing. Asheville.
(828) 253-3227.
www.ashevilleart.org

Smith-McDowell House Museum

Through Aug. 24, Asheville.
World War 1 Aviator.
(828) 253-9231.
www.wnchistory.org

Caldwell County Heritage Museum

Ongoing. Lenoir. Through
mid-Aug., Doll Collection.
(828) 758-4004.

Historical Museum

Ongoing. Kings Mountain.
Through October 13, "Athletes
From Western Piedmont."
(704) 739-1019.

PIEDMONT

(between I-77 and I-95)

Photos by Hohn Cohen

Through Aug. 17. Greensboro.
Free. (336) 256-1451.

Night Against Crime

Aug. 5. Lexington.
(336) 243-3319.

Farm Toys Show

Aug. 9. Burlington.
(336) 584-9829.

Golf Classic

Aug. 10-12. Pinehurst.
(800) 356-5362.

Mountain Bike Race

Aug. 10. Sanford.
(919) 776-1767.
www.devilsridgemb.com

Meteor Shower Viewing

Aug. 14. Apex.
(919) 362-0586.
www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home

Basic Canoeing

Aug. 14. Apex.
(919) 362-0586.
www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home

"Children Of A Lesser God"

Aug. 15-31. Raleigh.
(919) 821-3111.
www.raleighlittletheatre.org

Hobby & NASCAR Show

Aug. 16-17. Charlotte.
(919) 553-4285.
www.insidepitch.com

Equine Fun Show

Aug. 17. Kernersville.
(336) 720-9257.

Dragonflies!

Aug. 22. Apex.
(919) 362-0586.
www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home

Waller Family Concert

Aug. 23. Dobson.
(336) 366-4724.
www.sheltonvineyards.com

Play About Neighbors

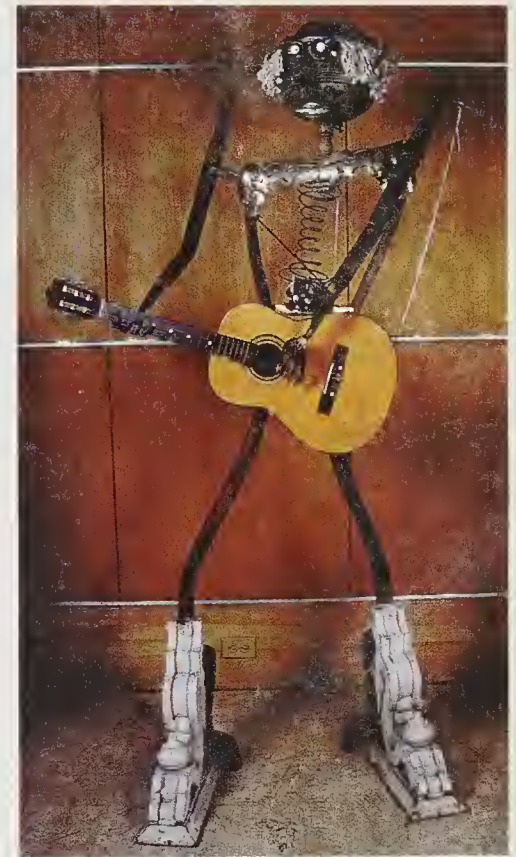
Aug. 22-30. Littleton.
(252) 586-3124.

Dublin Peanut Festival Rodeo

Aug. 22-23. Dublin.
(910) 648-2862.
www.dublinnc.net

Champion Rodeo

Aug. 22-23. Hamptonville.
(336) 468-8223.
www.rodeos.8k.com



Thirty kinetic sculptures that explore scientific principles in creative ways are featured in the exhibit "Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys: The Art Of Steve Gerberich" showing in Durham. The sculptures are fashioned out of scraps from everyday items, with surprising results. The exhibit will run through Monday, Sept. 1 at the North Carolina Museum of Life and Science. Call (919) 220-5429 or visit www.ncmls.org.

Spiders!

Aug. 24. Apex. (919) 362-0586.
www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home

Basic Canoeing

August 27. Apex.
(919) 362-0586.
www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home

Straw Soup Concert

Aug. 29. Danbury.
(336) 591-8159.

Turtles Of Jordan Lake

Aug. 31. Apex. (919) 362-0586.
www.ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/jord/home

continued on p. 36

AUGUST EVENTS

continued from p. 35



North Carolina musician David Holt will be performing in Manteo at Roanoke Island Festival Park at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 5 and 8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 7. Holt, a Grammy winner, plays 10 acoustic instruments and is known for his folk music and storytelling recordings. Call (252) 475-1500 or visit www.roanokeisland.com.

N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences
Ongoing. Raleigh. Opens Aug. 2, Titanic Artifacts • Aug. 9, Bugfest Free. • (919) 733-7450. www.natural-sciences.org

N.C. Museum of History
Ongoing. Raleigh. Aug. 5, How Folks Get Cool • Aug. 10, Chinese Dance • Aug. 13., State Fair • Aug. 17, Pills & Patents • (919) 715-0200. www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Chapel Hill Museum
Ongoing. Chapel Hill. (919) 967-1400. www.chapelhillmuseum.org

Ackland Art Museum
Ongoing. Chapel Hill. (919) 966-5736.

Airborne Museum
Ongoing. Fayetteville. Exhibit on Fort Bragg. (910) 483-5311. www.asomf.org

Charlotte Museum of History
Ongoing. Charlotte. Stenciled Floorcloths • Basket Weaving • Through September 2004, "Soldiers' Stories" • (704) 568-1774. www.charlottesmuseum.org

Mint Museum of Art
Ongoing. Charlotte. "Passing (Time)" • Opens Aug. 9, Jewelry • Opens Aug. 30, "Quilt Classics" • (704) 337-2009. www.mintmuseum.org

Discovery Place
Ongoing. Charlotte. "DNA: Secret of Life" • Through Sept. 1, "Playing with Time" • (704) 372-6261. www.discoveryplace.org

COAST (east of I-95)

Songs Of Irvin Berlin
Aug. 2-3. New Bern. (252) 633-0567. www.newberncivictheatre.org

Heide Presses Art Show
August 4-29. Manteo. (252) 475-1500. www.roanokeisland.com

"Age of Innocence"
Aug. 5. New Bern. (252) 514-4935.

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MOUNTAINS | PIEDMONT | COAST



David Holt

Aug. 5, 7. Manteo.

(252) 475-1500.

www.roanokeisland.com

Alive After Five

Aug. 8. New Bern.

(800) 437-5767.

www.visitnewbern.com

Summer Breeze

Aug. 10. Hertford.

(252) 426-7567.

Choir Concert

Aug. 10. Manteo.

(252) 475-1500.

www.roanokeisland.com

Flavor Of The Past

Aug. 16. Wilmington.

(910) 341-4350.

Comedic Performance

Aug. 22-Sept. 6. New Bern.

(252) 633-0567.

www.newberncivictheatre.com

Virginia Dare Lecture

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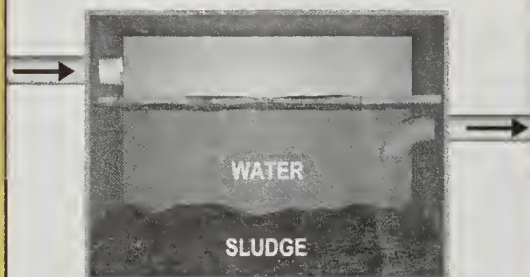
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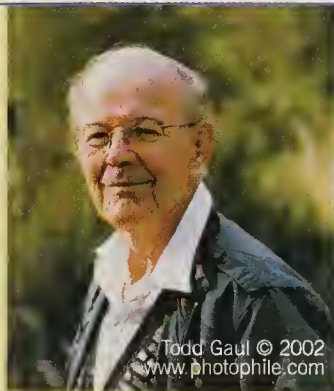
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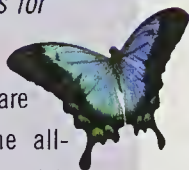
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The height of summer requires close attention to gardening projects. Plants can suffer from heat and dryness, causing problems now and in times to come. But the heat need not cause a lull in colorful garden displays. Some flowers thrive on a diet of heat and dry soil.

Heat-Tolerant Flowers

Portulaca (moss rose) is among the showiest and easiest of these types to grow. Both single and double forms produce blooms of many brilliant hues. Portulaca adapts to poor soil, and reseeds easily. Lantana thrives and flowers well in hot conditions, even growing in the narrow spaces between concrete and brick sidewalks. Gazania blooms freely throughout summer, thriving on heat and drought. It's very effective in rock gardens. Among other flowers that tolerate hot and dry locations: gaillardia, periwinkle, anthemis, yarrow, California poppy, red flax, candytuft, African daisy (arctotis) and calliopsis.

Repotting Houseplants

Now through September, repot houseplants that have become root bound in their containers. Place in a larger container, using sterile soil mix to supply aeration and moisture-and-nutrient holding capacity for healthy plant growth. Crushed egg shells worked into the soil will supply calcium for plant growth. If plant is root bound in original container, use a sharp knife to slice into the root ball. Cut into root mass of ball about an inch on 4-6 inches spacings around the ball. Loosen soil of small plants with your fingers.



Lantana thrives and flowers well in hot conditions.

Oxygenators

Lagarosiphon major and Myriophyllum species are oxygenators—submergible, fast-growing plants that clean and oxygenate water and are used as garden accents. In sunny weather, submerged algae may turn a new pond green within a week of installation. Oxygenating plants, however, compete for the dissolved mineral salts on which algae thrive. The introduced plants starve out the mineral salts, so the water eventually becomes clear once more. Such oxygenators are essential if fish are kept in the pond.

Butterfly Weed

A native wildflower, butterfly weed, sometimes called milkweed, is not only at home in the wild garden but contributes to the perennial garden as well. Bloom time is late spring on into summer. Individual flowers, in clusters on three-foot stems, are striking in their showy beauty. Easy to grow, butterfly weed tolerates a wide range of soil types.

HORT shorts

✂ Set out plantlets of annuals such as marigold, zinnia, periwinkle, cosmos, portulaca, balsam and calliopsis. These grow rapidly to maturity, replacing earlier flowers as they fade. Provide shade for a few days as new plants are sensitive to sunshine. Leafy branches of trees or shrubs can be stuck in the ground near plants to break rays of the hot sun.

✂ Potted geraniums often become scraggly and leggy. When this occurs, cut out older stems and head back the others. This results in more attractive plants and more blooms.

✂ Among good plants for growing in containers: asparagus fern, yellow coneflower, daylily, fuchsia, geranium, bleeding heart, Boston fern, African lily, stonecrop, Russian sage, lavender, rose mall, blue

lily turf, purple looseleaf, mums, lantana, kalanchoe, poinsettia and marguerita.

✂ If gerbera daisies have been scant of blooms, discontinue fertilizing the rest of this year. Heavy fertilizer stimulates the foliage growth and inhibits blooming. With protection from cold, gerberas will survive outdoors over winter. A heavy mulch usually does the job.

✂ Fluffy miller (centaurea corymbosa, c. ragusina or C. jacobinica) does best in sandy, well-drained soil in a sunny location. Yet it will tolerate any relatively dry soil. It's sometimes grown as an annual in the upper South. It's valued for its silvery-white foliage, and makes a good edging plant or ground cover for hot, dry sites. The foliage intensifies the colors of nearby annuals and perennials.

Self-cling window film cuts sun's rays and is re-usable

By James Dulley

If you want to block the sun's heat and glare, there are several low-cost options for windows. Installing permanent insulating window film is one of the most effective and attractive sun-control methods. You unroll the film and install it against the glass during the summer. During the winter you can remove, reroll and store the film away, to gain passing solar heat gain during those months. With proper care, it can be reused for many years.

Most reusable window films are made of a material (thin vinyl) similar to the removable film labels on new television screens or microwave doors. They cling to a smooth glass surface by a natural static charge in the vinyl material. They hold tight, but can be peeled off in seconds to store away each winter.

Self-cling window film is simple to install yourself. Unroll the film on a table and cut it with scissors to a size about one-half inch larger than the windowpane. Clean the window with a glass cleaner and leave it very wet. Place the film against the top of the window and roll it downward. Spray the film with the cleaner and run a squeegee over it to remove any bubbles. Trim off the excess and don't disturb it for a day or so. There is no adhesive, so you just pull it loose to remove it.

The self-cling window films are available in several levels of tint. Once the entire window is covered with a lightly tinted static-cling film, it really is not noticeable even though it blocks much of the glare and fading of carpets and furniture.

It will not create the reflective appearance that is common with some permanent window films.

When selecting the type of window film for your window, it is important to compare the performance (sun-control) options. The packaging will often list the specifications. Do not base the film's performance solely on the visual level of tint.

The key specifications to compare are visible light transmitted (glare), shading coefficient (sun's heat control) and total ultraviolet rejection (blocks UV fading rays). A low visible light transmission rating blocks more glare, but gives a



Film can be rolled up and stored in winter, then used again in summer.

more tinted view of the outdoors. A lower shading coefficient means less heat gets indoors through the window. A higher total UV rejection blocks more of the sun's fading rays.

If you have a decorative flare, choose a stiffer static-cling window film that has a colorful stained glass pattern printed on it. It actually resembles real stained glass. The film feels stiffer than standard window film, but it is the same thickness and is installed in the same way. You can still remove it each winter, but many people prefer to leave it up year-round because it is so attractive and provides privacy. There are many patterns available and some are open enough to allow for a good view outdoors.

Another excellent summer heat reduction option is using sun-control window screening. The sun-control window screening can be installed in the existing window screen frames or comes in roll-up exterior or interior shades made of the screening material. Screening is very versatile and can be used the same way as ordinary window screening. These screens have a dense weave and are often made of fiberglass, polyester or a combination of the two. Various screen weave patterns block from about 40 to 90 percent of the sun's glare. The screening looks very dense on the roll in the hardware or home center store, but you can easily see through them when standing near them from indoors. From a further distance away outdoors, they also provide privacy.

Don't forget to install the screening in your storm doors too, especially if you have pets. Special sun-control "pet-resistant" screening is available for windows and doors. This allows you to leave the primary door open to get natural ventilation without worrying your pet may tear through the screens. The pet screening is installed exactly the same way as any screening in any door or window. It is just made of a much more durable weave and material and blocks some of the sun's heat and glare.

Still another option is pull-down shades made of standard window film. Many of the kits are designed to fit the window opening precisely for an attractive appearance. Shades that use clear or tinted film with a simulated stained glass pattern are also available.

Finally, if your house has a basement or sunken first floor with some window wells below grade, they can be ugly and allow the sun's glare to reflect off the shiny metal well. Flexible window well liners that are printed on plastic can be installed inside the well. They are available in attractive sky, water and landscape scenes.

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Pretzel Fruit Pizza

- 3 cups finely crushed pretzels
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup sugar
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups cold butter or margarine
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lime juice
- 1 tablespoon grated lime peel
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups whipped topping
- 7 to 8 cups assorted fresh fruit

In a bowl, combine pretzels and sugar; mix well. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press into a 14-inch pizza pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until set. Cool on a wire rack; refrigerate for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, in a bowl, combine milk, lime juice and peel. Fold in whipped topping; spread over crust. Cover and chill. Top with fresh fruit just before serving.

Yield: 8 servings.

Lasagna Sandwiches

- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dried oregano
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon seasoned salt
- 8 slices Italian or other white bread
- 8 bacon strips, halved and cooked
- 8 slices tomato
- 4 slices mozzarella cheese
- 2 to 3 tablespoons butter or margarine

Combine the first four ingredients; spread on four slices of bread. Top each with four bacon pieces, two tomato slices and a slice of cheese; top with remaining bread. In a skillet over medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Cook sandwiches on both sides until bread is lightly browned and cheese is melted, adding more butter if necessary.

Yield: 4 servings.



Lasagna Sandwiches

Find more than 200 recipes and photos, and share your favorites recipes, at our Web site: www.carolinacountry.com

Garden Salsa

- 6 medium tomatoes, finely chopped
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped green pepper
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup thinly sliced green onions
- 6 garlic cloves, minced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup white vinegar
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 to 2 teaspoons minced jalapeno pepper
- 1 to 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon black pepper
- Tortilla chips

In a large bowl, combine the first 12 ingredients. Cover and refrigerate until serving. Serve with tortilla chips.

Yield: 5 cups.

Italian Zucchini Casserole

- 3 medium zucchini, sliced (about 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups)
- 3 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil, divided
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 tablespoon minced fresh basil or 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons minced fresh oregano or $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dried oregano
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon garlic salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups dry instant stuffing mix
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup shredded mozzarella cheese

In a large skillet, cook zucchini in 1 tablespoon oil until tender; about 5-6 minutes; drain and set aside. In the same skillet; sauté the onion and garlic in remaining oil for 1 minute. Add tomatoes, basil, oregano, garlic salt and pepper; simmer, uncovered for 10 minutes. Remove from the heat; gently stir in zucchini. Place in an ungreased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish. Top with stuffing mix; sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Uncover and sprinkle with mozzarella cheese. Return to the oven for 10 minutes or until golden.

Yield: 6-8 servings.



Garden Salsa



Italian Zucchini Casserole

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